131 length and a mile wide. "Howar" means "Young Camel" and the island was so called because it is similar in shape though smaller than Bahrain, and so was described as its offspring.

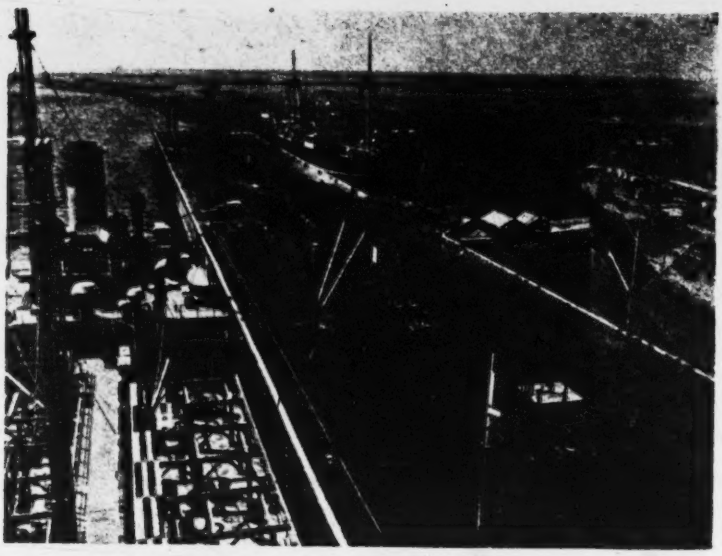
There are many other little islands in the Bahrain archipelago ; some contain small villages or fishermen's huts while others are deserted except during the occasional visits of migratory birds or pearl divers who come to the islands during the diving season to draw water from the freshwater springs.

311 Along the northern coast of Bahrain there is a narrow strip of land
137 some three miles wide which is under cultivation. The fertile gardens containing date and loz (Indian almond or Terminalia) pomegranate, banana and fig trees are irrigated from many natural springs and artesian wells. But in the waterless areas south of the cultivation, in the centre of the island, only sparse and hardy desert flora exists. Although this desert may seem bare to the eyes of a visitor accustomed to the lush greenness of Europe or the States, it is in fact covered with a great variety of desert plants which were found, in a recent survey, to include some 200 species.

133 Beyond the cultivated area the land is barren and the landscape consists of low rolling hills with numerous rocky cliffs and dry wadis. Most of the Islands of Bahrain are surfaced with hard limestone rock, covered in many places with sand dunes, and, in the case of the main island, with pre-historic tumuli. From the shore line the topography rises gradually towards the centre where it again drops off into a basin surrounded by steep cliffs. Towards the centre of the basin there is a very pronounced rocky promontory known as "Jebal ad-Dukhan," the "Mountain of Smoke," a name given to it because of the vague and hazy appearance it often presents, particularly during the hot summer months. The Jebal is only 450 feet above sea level and 250 feet above the surrounding plain but often, when mist surrounds its base, it gives the impression of being a considerable mountain.

Although Bahrain is a small country yet it displays a very varied
226 landscape and many surprising contrasts between old and new. It
228 is primarily a sea faring state. The brilliant blue and green waters, studded with white sails, which surround the islands provide the people of Bahrain with fish, which they catch from boats and in traps, fresh water, from the submarine springs, coral stone for building and pearls which made Bahrain such an important trading centre in the past.
361 The coastal towns have an attractive appearance. Manama's water front is lined with high white houses and beyond the town date gardens extend in an unbroken line down to the water's edge. Roads in the northern part of Bahrain pass through avenues of tall and stately date palms, bearing great bunches of golden, red and yellow fruit during
133 the summer months. The south of the island is a miniature desert and in the foothills around the Jebal there are many little wadis which
ooo after the rainy season are bright with desert flowers and shrubs. Even

504



Sitra Wharf. Photo : Bahrain Petroleum Company.

361

A scene in Awali. Photo : Bahrain Petroleum Company.

1: Belgrave

MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

102

361

The sections of the map facing page 42 are designated according to the plan below:

a	b	c	d	e
f	g	h	i	j

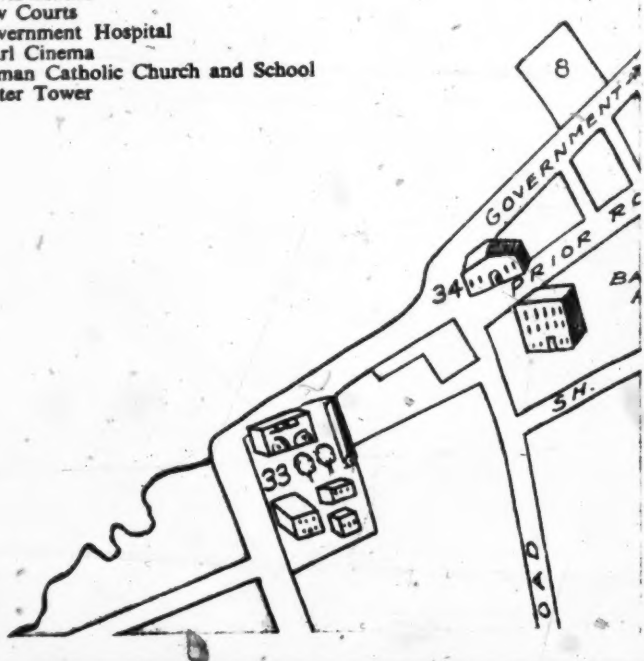
1; Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Facing p. 42a

102
361

INDEX

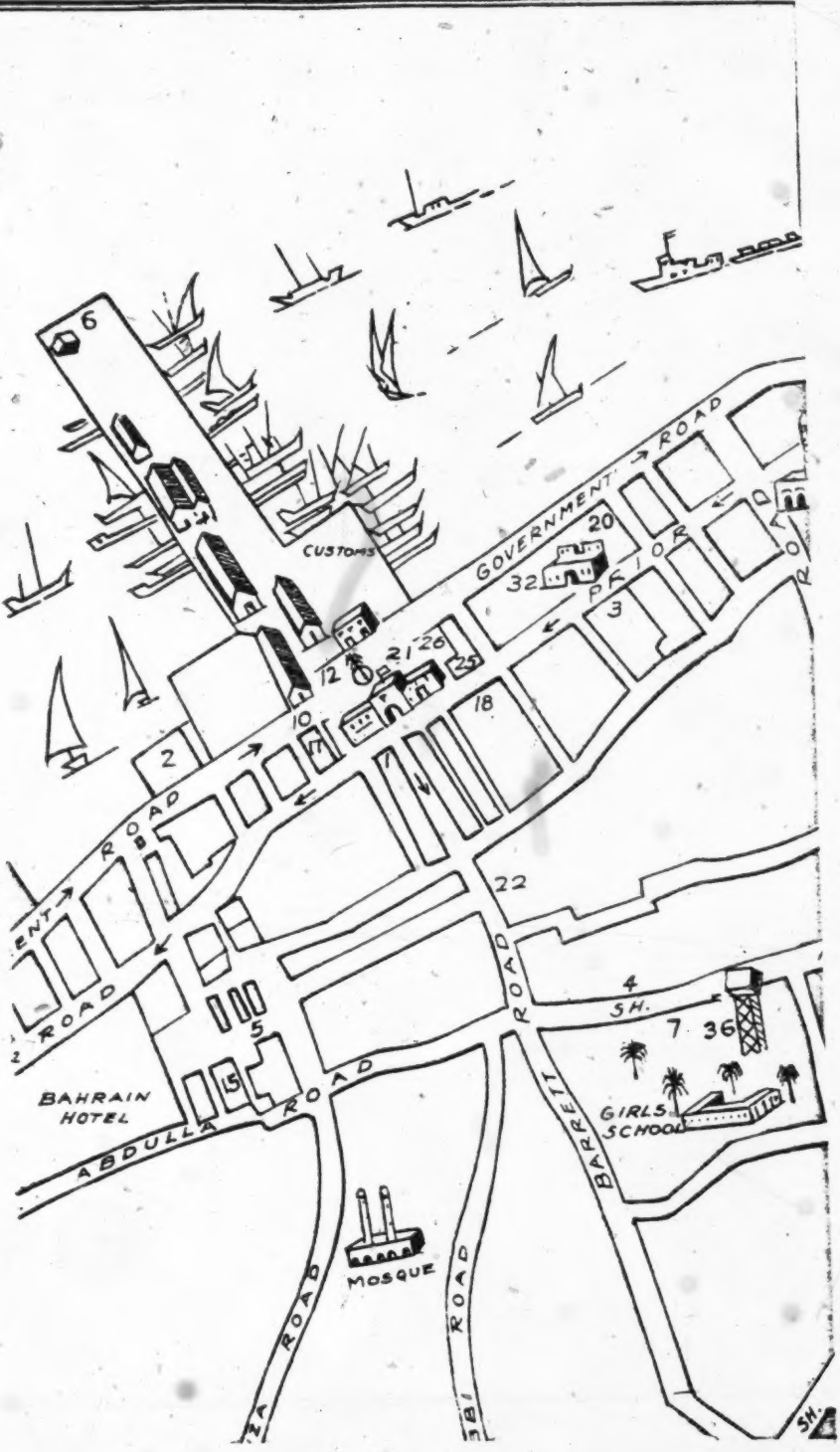
1 Post Office and Police Station
2 Eastern Bank.
3 British Bank of the Middle East
4 Arabs Club
5 Markets
6 Quarantine Office
7 Education Department
8 Bus Rank
9 BAPCO Bus Park
10 Taxi Rank
11 Custom House
12 Passport Office
13 Firdausi Club
14 Gulistan Club
15 Municipal Offices
16 B.A.O.C. Office and Rest House
17 Qosaibi Travel Office
18 Kanoo Travel Office
19 American Mission, Church and Hospital
20 ARAMCO Office
21 P.C.L. Office
22 Chamber of Commerce
23 Residence and Office of BAPCO Government Relations Officer
24 R.A.F. Residence
25 Telephone Exchange and Cable Office
26 BAPCO Filling Station
27 Pakistan Club
28 Bahrain Sports Club
29 Adviserate
30 H.B.M.'s Political Agency
31 Power House
32 Law Courts
33 Government Hospital
34 Pearl Cinema
35 Roman Catholic Church and School
36 Water Tower



1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Facing p. 42 b

102
361

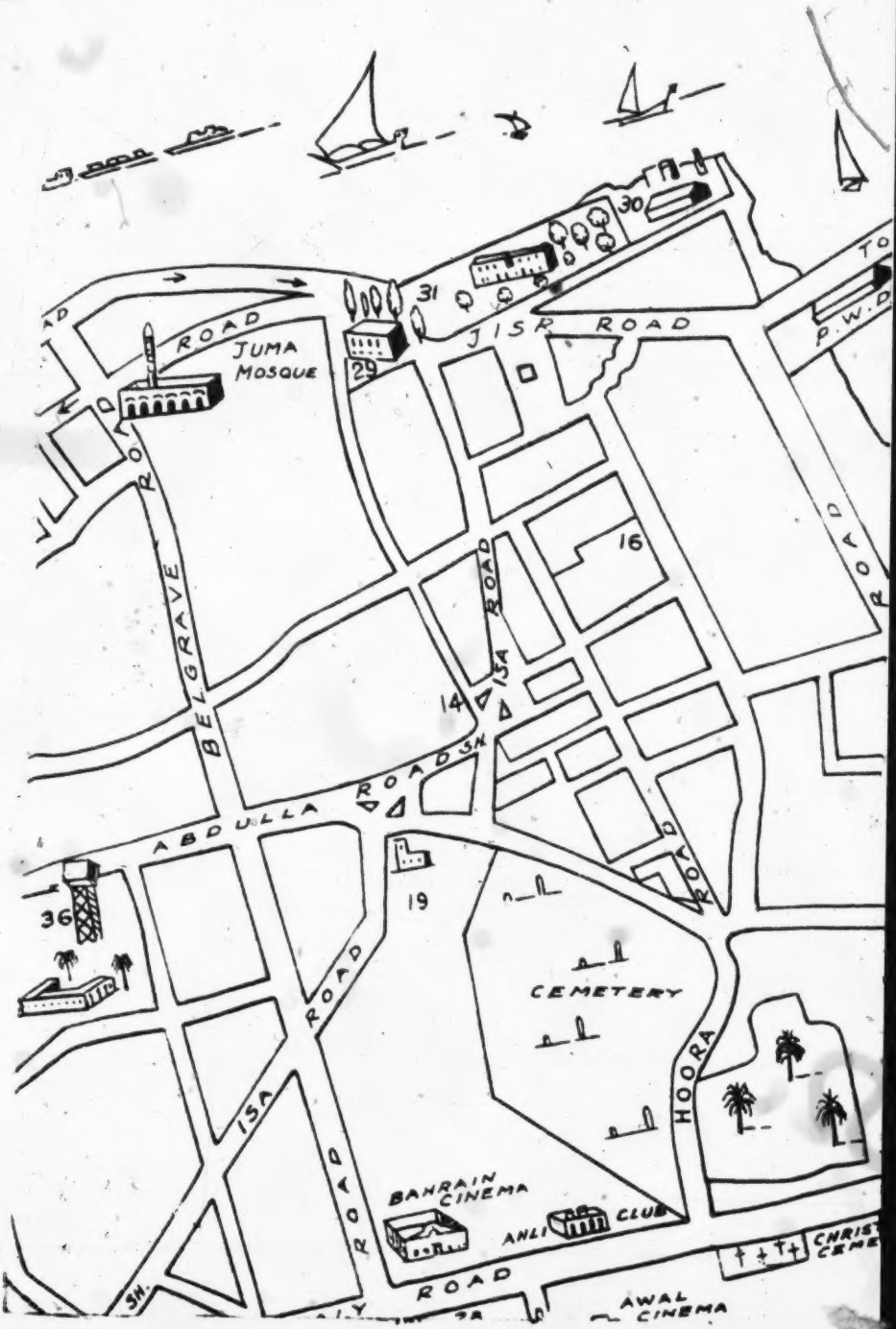


1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Facing p. 42 c

102

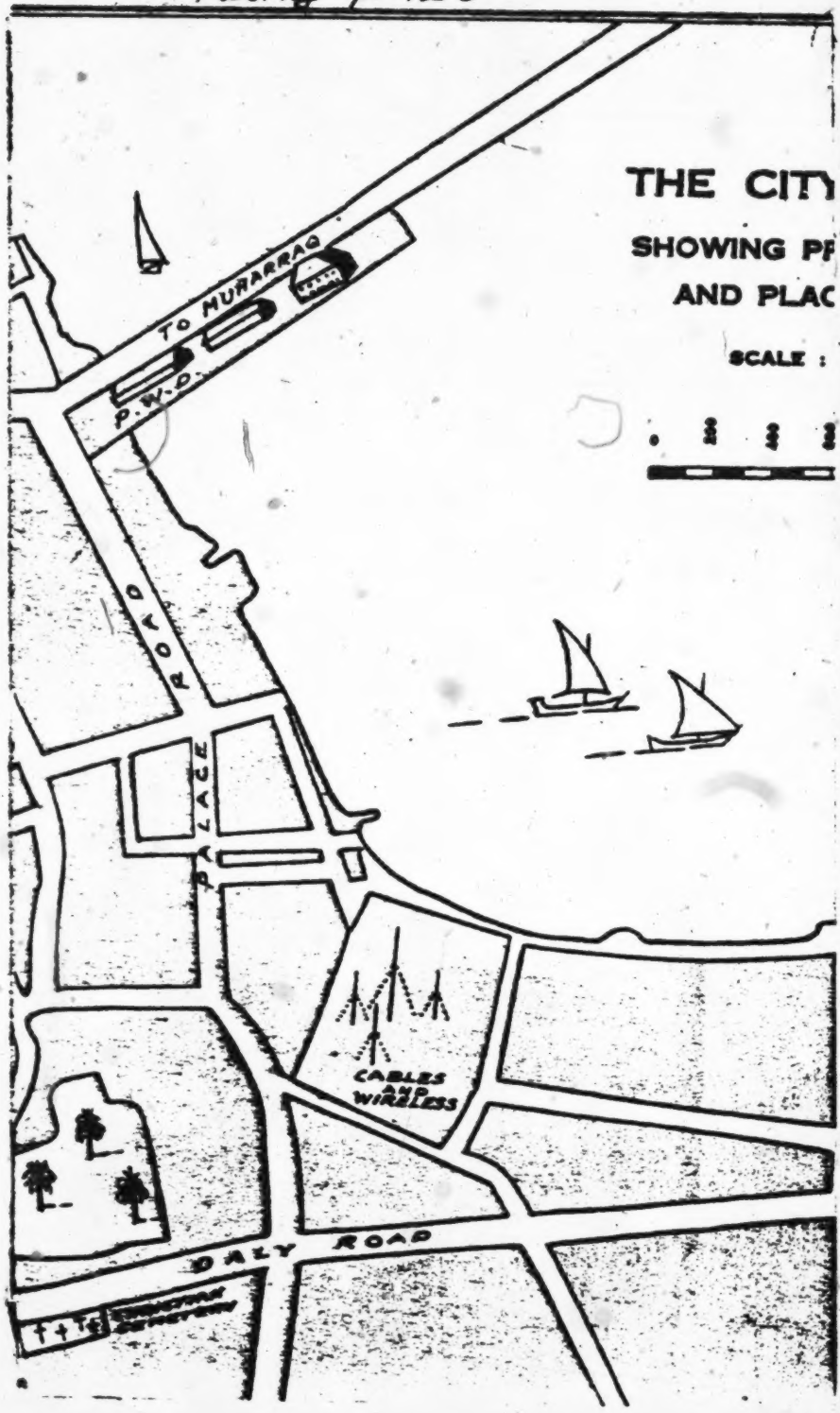
361



1; Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Facing p. 42 d

102
361



1; Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1958 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Facing p. 42e

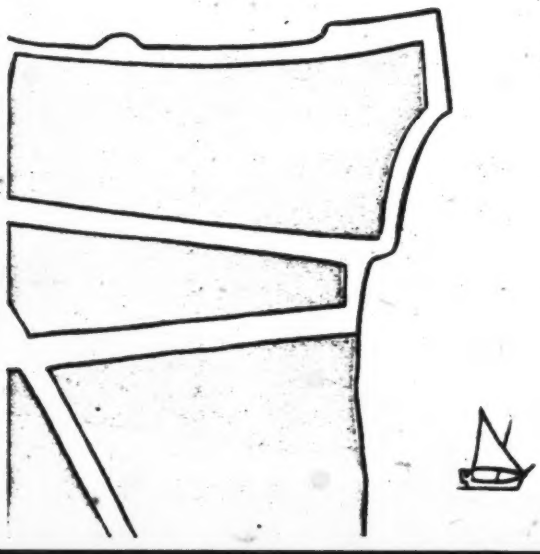
102
361

THE CITY OF MANAMA

SHOWING PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS AND PLACES OF INTEREST

SCALE : 600' = 1" (APPROX.)

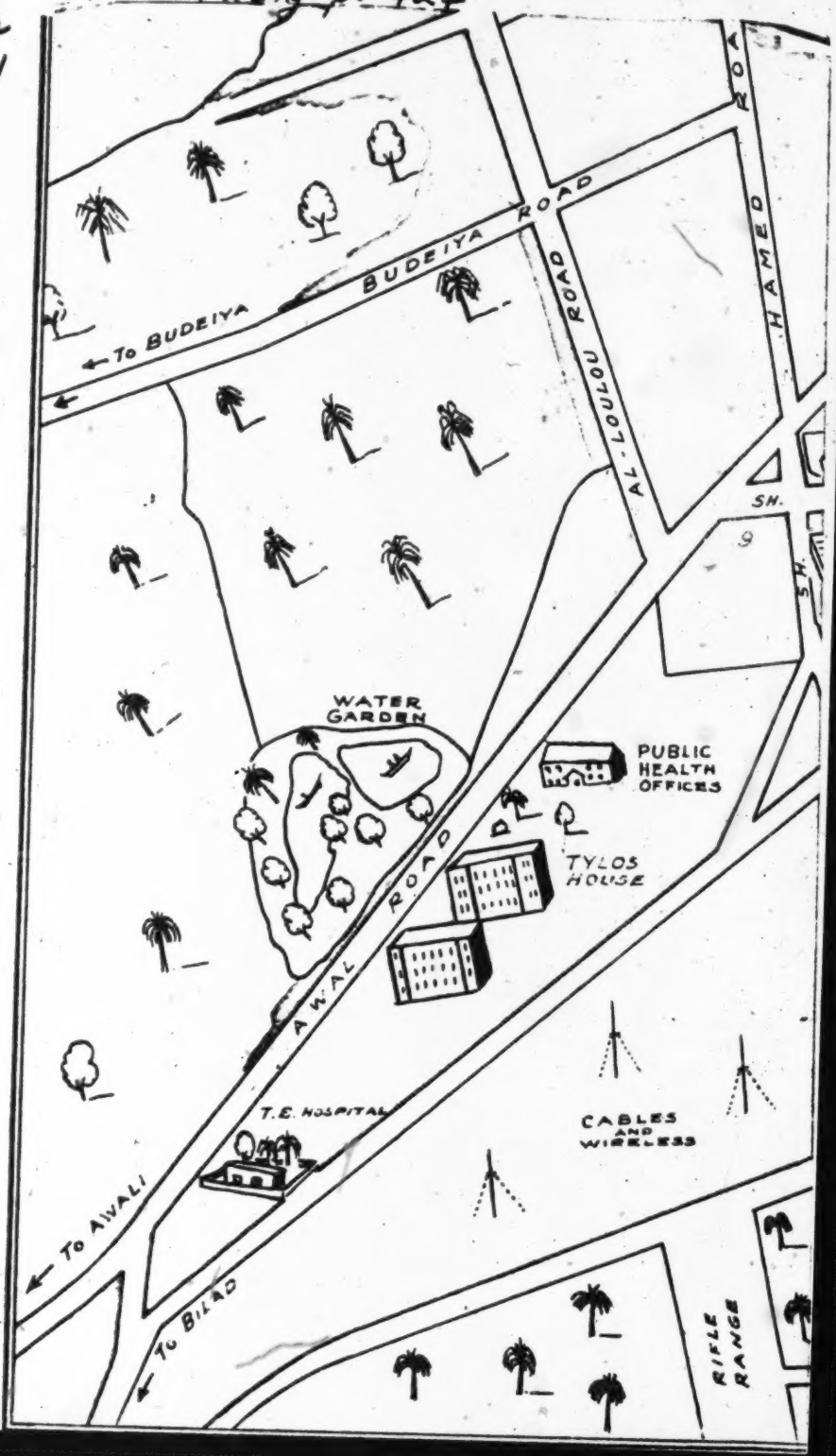
0 200 400 600 1200 1800



1½ Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Facing p. 42 ℓ

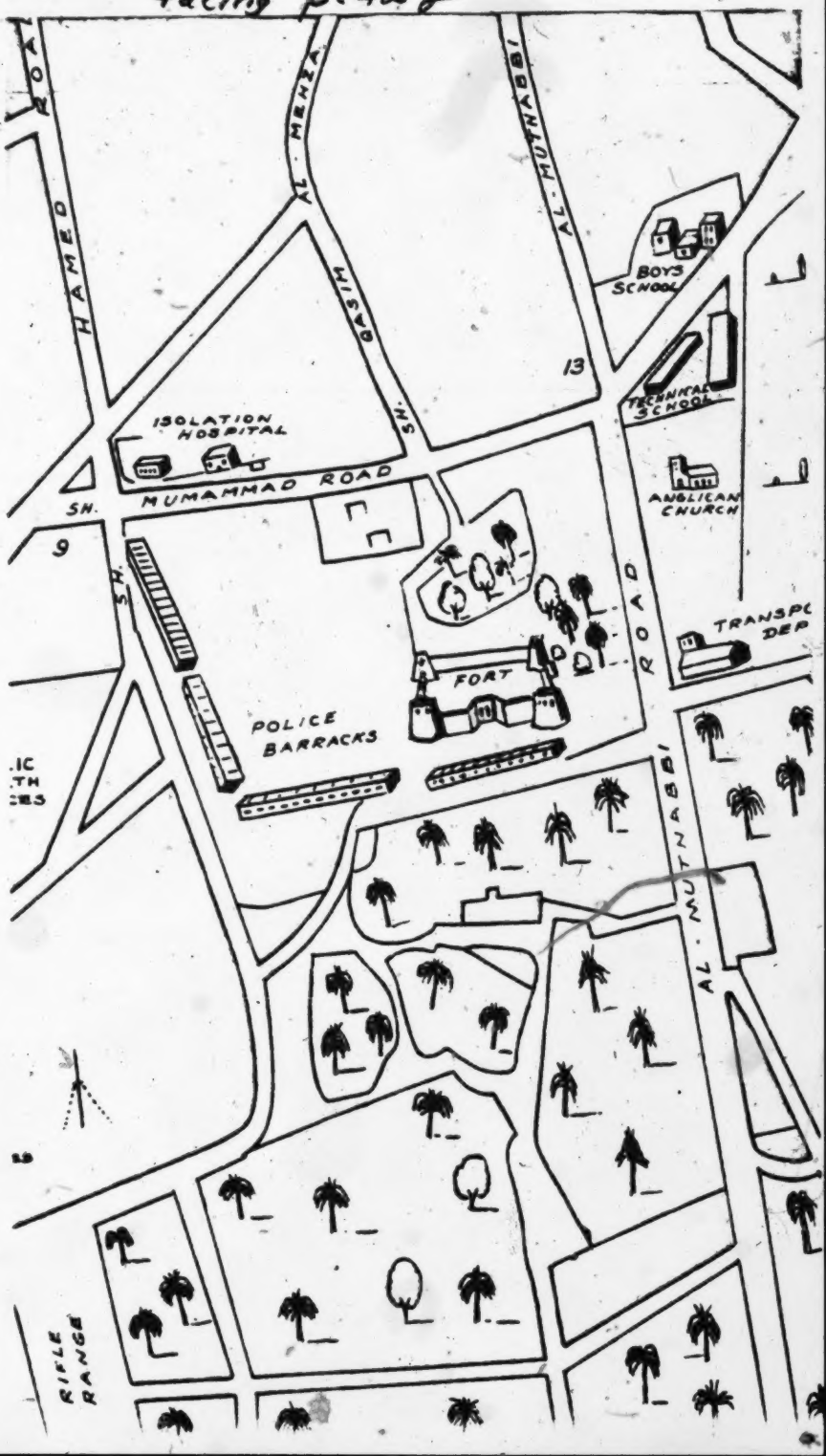
102
361



1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Facing p. 428

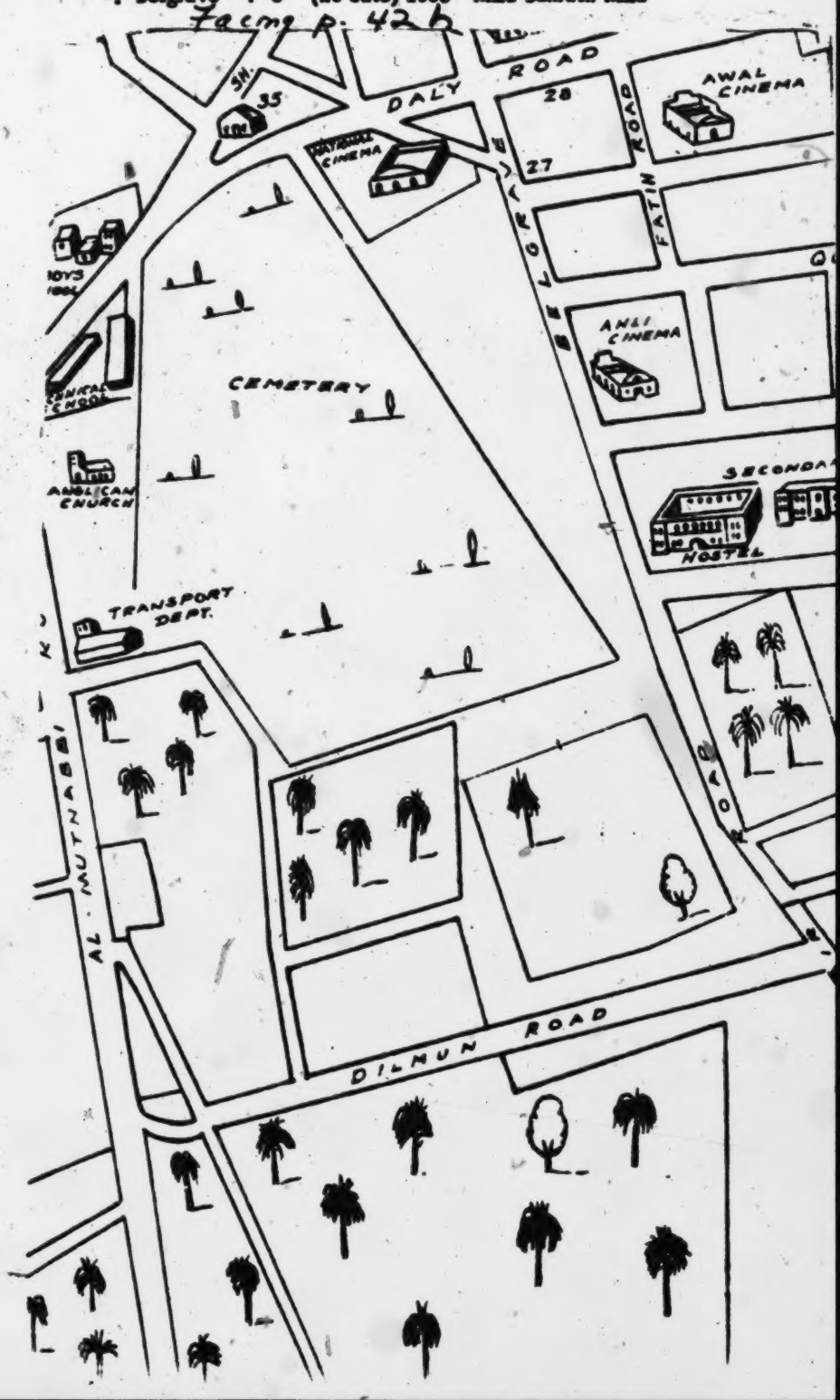
102
361



1; Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Facing p. 42b

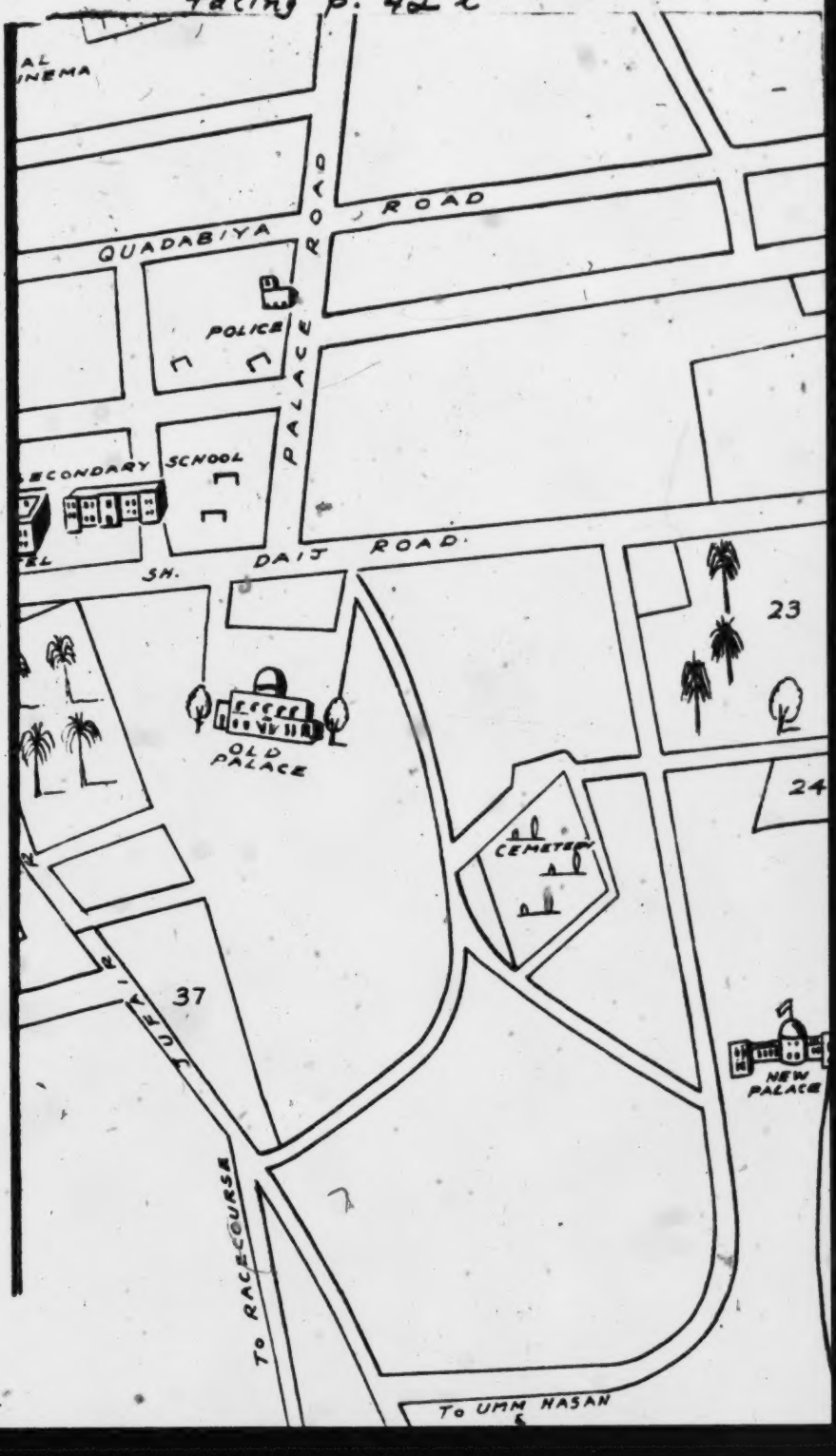
102
361



1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Facing p. 42 L

102
361

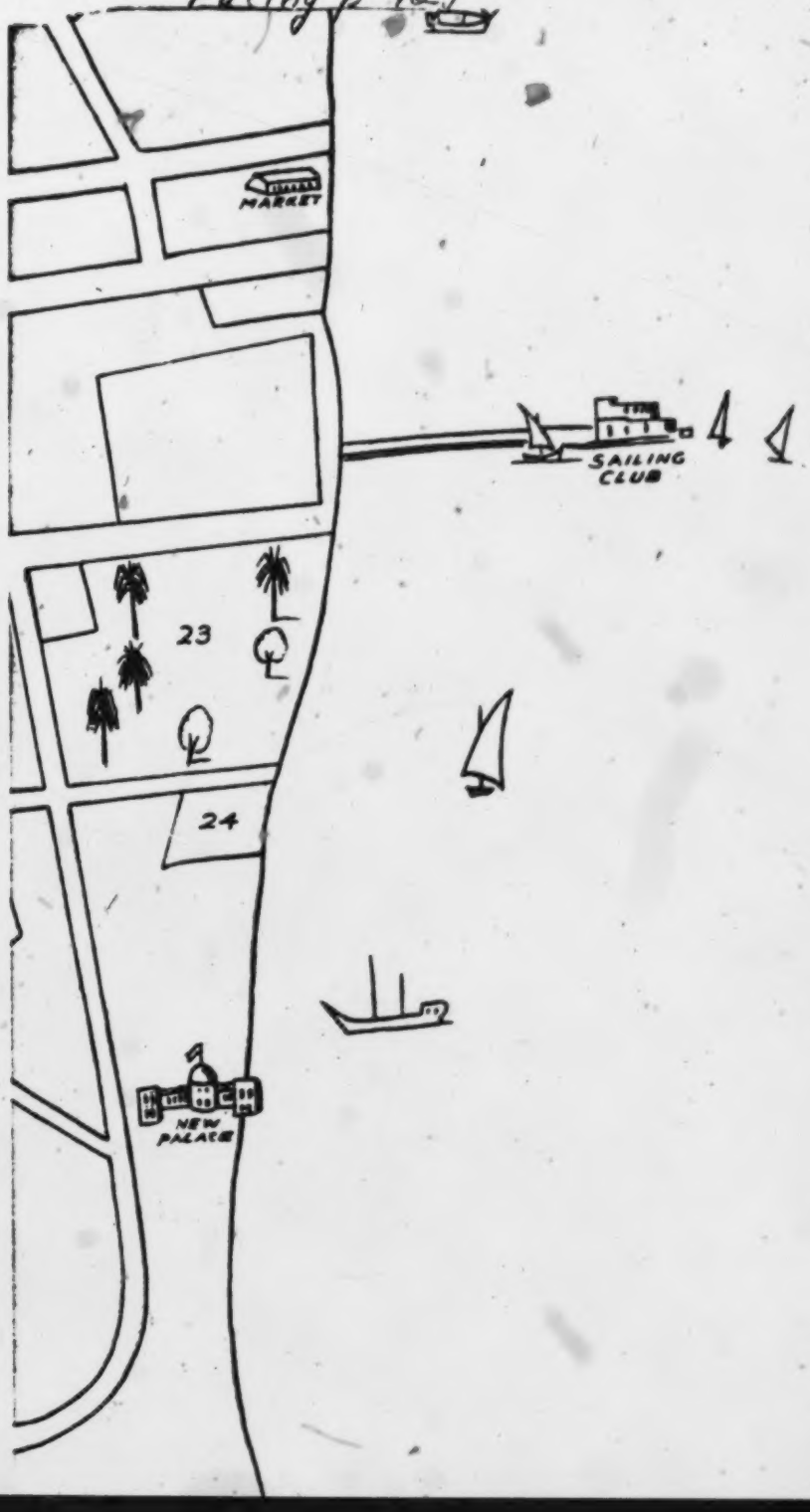


1; Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Facing p 42

102

361



At Awali are the offices and the homes of the European employees of BAPCO, while outside the fence is the Arab camp for the few Bahrainis who prefer to live there rather than in their own towns and villages. Near Awali's eastern gate is the Training School for Bahrainis, where something is done to equip them for higher posts in the company. This is a field of activity which the company is beginning to develop and it is very important that is should succeed.

South of Awali, in the desert around the Jebal ad-Dukhan, is the oil field, the *raison d'etre* of BAPCO, an unimpressive area with many little squares of cement decorated with taps and valves and surrounded by low fences, which are the oil wells, while here and there derricks mark the search for more oil which is always in progress.

After the Abadan Refinery the one on Bahrain is the largest in the Middle East and supplies large quantities of refined products to India, Pakistan, East Africa and other countries "East of Suez." During the day it would be difficult to describe the refinery as anything but a large and ugly mass of iron and steel, with the great Cat. Cracker rising above the squat silver tanks. The air is hot and dusty and in the summer the iron-work is so hot that to touch it raises blisters; but in the evening the refinery takes on the appearance of a slightly shapeless but nevertheless well decorated Christmas Tree, covered in lights and set against a background of flares of burning gas which illuminate the sky like a lurid orange back-cloth.

The Sitra anchorage has at all times an appearance of feverish activity, it is being improved so that it will be possible to load ships and tankers round the clock. In order to do this the jetty is being floodlit with great arc lamps.

On low-lying Sitra Island all that can be seen from the sea are the storage tanks, it is only on approaching nearer that the island itself becomes visible. The Tank Farm spreads across the middle of Sitra, and as it expands it threatens to cut the island in two. To the south of the Tank Farm is a large group of buildings from which a crashing sound is continually heard; this is the Drum Plant. Further evidence of this is present in the thousands of newly painted drums that are piled in huge rows near the plant.

The oil industry is directed from the main office in Awali, where from air-conditioned coolness in the summer and air-conditioned warmth in the winter instructions go out to all parts of Bahrain where BAPCO has its installations. Bahrain is well situated for an oil industry. The oil wells are about eight miles from the Refinery, which itself is scarcely more than half that distance from the Pier and Tank Farm, while from Awali it is possible to see on a clear day both the Refinery and the Field. The radio-telephone and the aeroplane used in other Middle Eastern fields have no place in Bahrain where phones and cars are quite sufficent.

Of the 7,749 workers employed by BAPCO at the end of 1951, 4,937 were Bahrainis and 1,035 were British, American and other

Some twenty years ago a Danish scientific expedition paid two visits to the Persian Gulf to report on the fish found in it. They discovered that there were over 400 species.

AGRICULTURE

Parts of Bahrain have always been fertile and very probably in ancient times more land was under cultivation than is being used today. The gardens of Bahrain are mentioned by many ancient visitors to the islands. The captains of Alexander's ships described Tylos, the ancient name of Bahrain, as "well-wooded and productive" while Idrisi, writing in the 12th century, says that the "capital of Awal (Bahrain Island) is Bahrain; this is a town well populated whose environs are fertile and produce corn and dates in abundance." It could be that the capital of Bahrain mentioned by Idrisi was Bilad al-Qadim, the description would seem to imply this.

Formerly the Bahrain gardens were irrigated from natural springs and surface wells, the water either flowing from the springs into the gardens or being lifted from wells to the level of the land by various forms of water scoops. The most commonly used is the Shaduf. A man stands near the edge of the well and draws up the water in a sheep skin bag attached by ropes to a counter-balanced pole. In larger wells donkeys or oxen are used, walking endlessly up and down a ramp pulling the water to the surface from where it runs down into irrigation channels. As the rainfall in Bahrain is almost negligible all agriculture depends upon irrigation.

In the 20's and 30's Major Frank Holmes drilled many artesian wells in Bahrain which completely changed Bahrain's system of irrigation. By introducing these wells into the island Major Holmes did much to increase the area of land which could be cultivated, but artesian wells turned out to be a mixed blessing, for in the following years so many wells were drilled that the water head went down and some of the gardens in the south of Bahrain dried up. Today this problem is being met by a government Water Committee which decides whether and under what conditions new wells may be drilled, it tries to ensure that the water resources of the islands are maintained at their present level or even increased by the utilisation of the many large springs of fresh water which lie under the sea around the shores of Bahrain.

The two commonest crops in Bahrain are dates and lucerne (alfalfa). the latter is often grown in the shade of the date palms where its vivid greenness provides a contrast to the brown and grey-green of the date palms. There is little good fruit in Bahrain although a certain number of fruit trees are cultivated, these include citrus, tamarind, pomegranate, fig, guava, terminalia (indian almond) mango, bananas, grapes and kanard (a small apple-like fruit). European vegetables are grown in the cold weather and other ground crops include sweet potatoes, melons, tomatoes, ladies fingers, egg plants, onions, garlic and pumpkins.

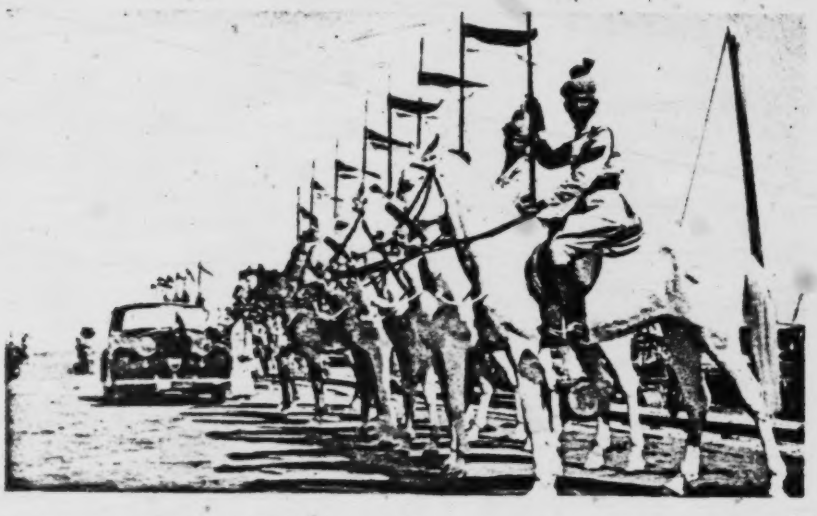
1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

361
172
712

North Bahrain in 1635. A map taken from a Portuguese book on India (see *Chapter VIII*).

Photo : Courtesy of Royal Egyptian Geographical Society.

625



Bahrain State Police, Mounted Section.

Photo : K. P. Narayan

south-west corner the town is deserted and in ruins. Also on this plain is the Abu Zaidah Mosque, built over a spring of the same name. This mosque has recently been repaired by the Government and is much used by the Shia people of Manama, especially by the women during weddings.

To the north of the Budaiya Road is the ruined mosque of Abu Mahara, a strange little building with two storeys and a tall column in the centre of the spring. This mosque was built in the year 889 A.H. (1484 A.D.) as shown by an inscription to this effect in its west wall.

There are many other mosques in Bahrain, some of which contain inscriptions giving the date of their foundation, but they are of comparatively recent date and the mosques themselves are of no architectural interest.

THE FORTS OF BAHRAIN

Portuguese and Persians, Arabs and Omanis, all these have at one time or another attacked and occupied Bahrain and have retained control of the islands by the construction and garrisoning of forts and castles. The oldest surviving fort in Bahrain is the Qalat al-Ajaj, built by the Portuguese some time after their occupation of Bahrain in 1521. This fort lies on the northern shore of Bahrain Island some three miles from Manama and the easiest way to visit it is by driving along the Manama-Budaiya Road and then by turning off to the north when the ruins of the fort can be seen through the date palms.

On the sea shore below the fort can be seen the steps by which the Portuguese entered their boats, but with the exception of these remains there are no relics of the Portuguese in Bahrain. A number of cannon have been found, but there is a surprising absence of inscriptions, coins or gravestones.

The exact date of the construction of the fort is not known, but the fort was repaired in 1562 and 1586, this need for continual repair was no doubt due to the many revolts which took place in Bahrain against the Portuguese. Shaikh Khalifah an-Nabhani, in his history of Bahrain, mentions that he visited the fort and saw this latter date inscribed in four places on the walls of the fort, but today there is no sign of these inscriptions.

Page 62 shows a map of north Bahrain Island and Muharraq taken from a Portuguese book of the seventeenth century. It is interesting to see that whereas the Portuguese fort, in fact, has five sides, with square towers at four corners and a turret at the fifth, in the map the fort appears as square in shape while the moat is five-sided. The fort is at present in such a bad state of repair that it is almost impossible to discover the purposes of the various towers and chambers found in it, but an idea can be obtained of the great skill and care that went into the making of the walls by an examination of the towers and wall on the west side of the fort. The moat is no longer filled by the sea due to its neglect, although after the expulsion of the Portuguese the fort continued to be used by the Persian garrison in Bahrain.

A further examination of the map reveals that in the time of the

Portuguese there was a church in Bahrain (bottom left-hand corner) and it is possible that the ruins that can be seen by the side of the road leading to the fort were once a church. Also in the map is a village of black-roofed houses with one tall minaret-like building, probably the Suq al-Khamis Mosque, whose twin minarets, as stated above, are of comparatively recent origin. The map also shows a number of small black houses facing on to a bay, these could represent the town of Manama, then a village, which is known to have existed in the time of the Portuguese. What is more surprising is the large two-storeyed fort on Muharraq Island ; this cannot be explained as easily as the other items, for there is to-day only one fort on Muharraq Island, that of Arad, which is known to have been built by the Omanis in 1800. It could be that they built their fort on the ruins of another older one, but it is also possible that this fort represents Muharraq town, which, until comparatively recently, was protected by a wall. On the map to the right of the fort is a small building with two flags, probably the tomb of some local notable, and to the left of the fort there is another group of houses representing either Muharraq or one of the coastal villages. Finally there is the island of Abu Mahir, whose fort is indicated by a small tower set in the sea to the left of Muharraq Island. The book from which this map is taken is in the Bibliothéque Nationale de Paris and the map is here reproduced by kindness of the Royal Geographical Society of Egypt.

361 172 712

Some miles south of the Jebal ad-Dukhan there is a hill called 'Amr and crowning it is a fort, a simple construction of loose stones, built, according to tradition, by Shaikh Jabbara, who became ruler of Bahrain about 1698 A.D. Far from gardens and fresh water, this fort was in fact in an ideal position from which to guard Bahrain against foreign enemies, for the sea is visible to the east and the west. The story of Shaikh Jabbara will be told in Part III.

172 712

The palace of Shaikh Farir is said to have been situated at Rifaa ash-Sharqi, overlooking the central plain of Bahrain island and, to-day, the oil town of Awali. The fort of Rifaa ash-Sharqi in its present form was built by Shaikh Sulman bin Ahmed al-Khalifah, one of the early Khalifah rulers, who started work on it in 1812. The wooden doors that he caused to be set up can still be seen at the entrance to the house of the Amir of Rifaa, the inscriptions that they bear, when the numerical values of the letters are added up, indicate that the fort was built in the above year.

Returning to Manama, we pass the Qalat ad-Diwan, to-day used as the H.Q. of the Bahrain State Police. Although this fort has been modernised, the main outline is still recognisable as it was built on the orders of Nadir Shah, after he seized Bahrain in 1739. This fort contained the Persian garrison in Bahrain till they were expelled by the Khalifah. Shaikh Isa (1869-1932) often used the Qalat ad-Diwan as his summer palace until it was taken over by the Police.

[625]

In Muharraq Island a rather comic toy-like fort sits on the sea-shore of Arad Bay facing Muharraq town. A simple construction of

1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Part III.—AROUND BAHRAIN.

MANAMA

361 THE capital of Bahrain, Manama, with a population, in 1950, of 39,648, is situated on the low lying coast at the north end of Bahrain Island. Most parts of the town are only two or three feet above sea level and close below the ground there is brackish water which accounts for the excessive humidity during the summer. The town extends for 1½ miles along the northern shore and about the same distance down the east coast. Although Manama, which means "The Place of Sleeping." is known to have existed in the 15th century and is mentioned by the Portuguese, it contains no ancient buildings, and possibly the oldest relic of the past is the tomb of Shaikh Ahmed al-Khalifah, who conquered Bahrain in 1782, situated near the Awal Cinema.

[103]

The most attractive view of Manama is from the sea. Approaching the port from Saudi Arabia one sees a long line of tall, white houses with deep-shadowed verandahs, rising above the brilliantly coloured water. Around the Customs Pier, which extends for a quarter of a mile into the sea, there are usually 70 or 80 local sailing craft and launches whose crews and cargoes fill the pier to overflowing. The skyline of the town is broken by two or three minarets, the tallest being that of the Juma Mosque, while on the shore to the east of the town can be seen the graceful wind-towers which were used to catch the breeze before the days of electric fans and air-conditioning.

342 Most of the houses are built from coral stone, quarried from the bed of the sea at low tide, plastered and painted white. A noticeable feature of Bahrain architecture is the use of large flat sheets of coral stone set between masonry pillars in the walls of the houses. In some districts of the town there are still numbers of "barastis", huts made of palm branches, but these are rapidly being replaced by stone and cement houses.

361 344 The centre of the town is Shaikh Sulman Square with, on the north, the Pier and the Customs premises and on the south "Bab al-Bahrain," the Gate of Bahrain, a large block of Government offices with an archway in the centre leading through to the principal street in the bazaar. In the centre of the Square is a circular garden, the walls of which are made from cement panels decorated with traditional Bahraini designs, arabesques, of pleasing appearance. The bazaar extends for some distance on each side of Barrett Road, the main street. To its west are the Municipal Buildings and an open market where, on Wednesday mornings, the people of the villages bring their produce to sell.

366 443

The Manama bazaar rightly claims to be the emporium of the Gulf, it contains both narrow streets of picturesque little shops, full

of colour and Arab life, and large modern stores stocked with every type of goods from America, Europe and the East. The spice bazaar, the second-hand bazaar behind the Municipality and the shops of the metal workers are typically oriental ; the stores in the larger streets with plate glass windows and fixed prices stock a wide range of modern goods which are generally cheaper than elsewhere in the Gulf owing to the low customs duty. Apart from pearls, mother-of-pearl, gold and silver thread embroidery and model dhows there are few purely local products for visitors to buy. The best way to see the bazaar is on foot, it provides innumerable subjects for photos and neither here nor anywhere else in Bahrain is there any objection to the taking of photos. 366 443

To the south-west of the town is the Qalat ad-Diwan, beyond it, along Awal Road, is the Isolation Hospital, the Public Health Department and a number of blocks of flats. Opposite them is a large garden with two miniature lakes, known as the Water Garden ; this is a popular place during summer evenings. Beyond the flats is the Mental Hospital. It is probable that within the next few years this area will undergo extensive development. 361 517 368

To the south-east is the district of Manama known as Quadabiya, up to a few years ago an area of barren sand and swamp land where mosquitos bred but which today is rapidly developing into a residential and entertainment centre. Going along Belgrave Road one passes the Secondary School and Hostel, the Palace and, where the road joins Jufair Road, many houses and bungalows occupied by employees of European commercial firms. Jufair Road then passes the Race Course and Gymkhana Club and terminates in the suburbs of Umm a-Hasan and Jufair ; at the latter are the headquarters of the Senior British Naval Officer, Persian Gulf and H.B.M.'s Political Residency. 361 368

In the modern districts of Manama there are many wide and well surfaced roads, lined with tree-shaded pavements, while here and there in the town waste plots of land have been made into little gardens with benches, lawns and fountains. Along the water-front runs Sea Road, joining the Muharraq Causeway with the State Hospital at its western end. The Muharraq Causeway took ten years to build, for it served as a relief project when there was unemployment in Bahrain. The Shaikh Hamed Swing Bridge was completed in 1942 by Messrs. Holloways Bros. Many of the principal buildings and offices in Bahrain are on the Sea Road and Prior Road, which is an inland road running parallel to it. In former times the sea extended far into the town, south even of Prior Road, but during the past twenty-five years much of the sea-shore has been reclaimed. In Muharraq similar work can be seen in progress, but in an earlier stage of development. 363 [491] [653]

In the evenings, the busiest part of Manama is Belgrave Road and the part of Quadabiya to its east where there are four cinemas and many coffee-shops, as well as football fields. At sunset the people of the town can be seen strolling along the road to Jufair, or sitting on the benches that line the pavements, later returning to the cinemas 517 [368]

and coffee-shops. This activity continues until about eleven o'clock especially in the summer when it is pleasanter to be out in the open air than indoors.

Manama is supplied with electric light from the Government Power House, situated on the point at the north-east end of Manama. The town water supply, also a Government concern, comes from artesian wells in what used to be the Municipal Garden from where it is pumped into large tanks high above Manama and from there distributed by mains to all parts of the town and to numerous drinking fountains and public baths. This water system, which was installed by Holloway Bros., was completed in 1949, before this the water came from private and public artesian wells and was distributed by water carriers.

QASARI

It is logical in describing Bahrain to leave Manama by the main road, Awal Road, but a more interesting drive can be taken by following the 2nd class road which branches off from Awal Road beyond the Mental Hospital. After passing through a number of villages of comparatively little interest the road comes to a shaded lane bordered on one side by a lake. This is Ain al-Qasari, whose pool, although more extensive than that at Adari, is shallow and therefore unsuitable for swimming. Here there is a garden and a pleasant little house overlooking the pool, admittance to which is free, which is much frequented by picnicers. In the pool there are fish, some of which are as much as eighteen inches in length, as well as turtles. These are so accustomed to visitors that when people walk along the edge of the water or sit in the house, they swim lazily to the surface, waiting to be thrown pieces of bread or food. In a country consisting mostly of desert, and where a small and dirty pool usually constitutes the local water supply, the attractive appearance of Ain al-Qasari, particularly at sunset, is very agreeable.

There are in fact two springs called Qasari, the second, situated on Awal Road, is better known by the name of the "Dhobis Pool" on account of the large numbers of Indian washermen who mercilessly beat the dirty clothes on slabs of rock, and when they have finished hang them out to dry in long lines by the side of the road. It is a not unusual sight to round a corner of the road and to see before one lines of clothes, billowing in the breeze like wind-socks, and the frantic activity of the dhobis standing in the water in an odd array of clothing attempting to finish their task and dry the laundry before the sun sets.

BILAD AL-QADIM

A short way beyond Ain al-Qasari is Bilad al-Qadim, literally "The Old Town," formerly the capital of Bahrain, which lies between the Suq al-Khamis Mosque, whose twin minarets are a landmark for navigators, and the Khor Mukhtar inlet on the east coast. Bilad al-Qadim can also be approached from Awal Road opposite the Suq

al-Khamis Mosque and half a mile south of the village there is an inlet of the sea which can be crossed at low tide by a ford which leads to the village of Tubli. 361 ●

Bilad al-Qadim is a Shiite village and was the capital of Bahrain before the Arab conquest of the Islands. It is frequently referred to in local Shiite histories and is described but not named in a number of early Moslem writings. A large area of the town is now in ruins, but its walls and mounds show that it was once a place of considerable size and importance. According to local reports the sandy mound near the School opposite Suq al-Khamis Mosque is all that remains of the fort that protected the town, while the mosque itself was its Friday Mosque. The Thursday Market (Suq al-Khamis), after which the district takes its name, is probably a relic of the time when this was the capital of Bahrain and when goods were brought here from the country for sale, just as today the Wednesday Market serves the same purpose in Manama.

There are several well-known springs in the vicinity including Qasari, which has already been mentioned, the Dhobi Pool and Abu Zaidan. A relic of the old town still stands in the shape of Masjid ar-Rafia, a mosque built over a spring, which is on the west side of the town and contains an ancient Kufic inscription. Date groves and gardens surround the town but many of the inhabitants work in Manama, where some of them own shops. The white buildings in the clearing opposite the Suq al-Khamis Mosque are a Government Boys School and a dispensary. [312]

ADARI

"The Lido of Bahrain" is a description which is often used for Ain Adari (The Virgin's Pool). It is especially applicable in the summer when every evening buses, cars, lorries and bicycles convey people from Manama to the deep, cool blue waters of the pool where they swim or sit about in the public garden or coffee-shop. Adari is the largest natural spring in Bahrain and the stream which flows from it irrigates many acres of gardens. 312 529

Adari was once a very messy pool where camels and donkeys were watered, but it has been developed by the government into a bathing place. The sides of the pool have been lined with cement and provided with steps, there is a mosque, a coffee shop, bathing huts and diving boards, and around the pool a flower garden where oleandar, bougainvillea and ponciana flourish. The road to Adari, which branches off Awal Road, is indicated by a sign-post about half a mile south of Suq al-Khamis. [491]

UPPER AND LOWER SEHLAH

These are two villages on opposite sides of Awal Road. Upper Sehlah is a small village of stone and barasti houses built on a hill overlooking the surrounding gardens; in summer the village expands when the date pickers descend on the village and put up their barastis. 361 245 221

361 when the date pickers descend on the village and put up their barastis.
245 Lower Sehlah is reached by a bridge across the water channel that borders the Manama-Awali Road. This village is surrounded by date gardens and can also be reached by a footpath from Adari. The gardens in the neighbourhood of the two villages are among the best and most thriving in Bahrain, and the date groves are locally described as the hump of Bahrain, not because they rise above the surrounding lands but on account of their being the richest and most fertile in the islands.

AALI

361 After leaving the palm belt and entering the plain north of Rifaa, thick smoke can usually be seen rising from among some date gardens to the west, this is the village of Aali, one of the largest in Bahrain. It lies on the western edge of the plain which extends from the end of the date gardens at the bridge of Radhm al-Qawari to the Rifaa hills, and is close to a group of the largest tumuli in Bahrain which are a conspicuous feature of the landscape of Bahrain island. The largest mounds in the Aali group are over 80 feet high and 100 feet in diameter.
[491] The best road to Aali is the one indicated by the sign-post on Awal
[542] Road, a short distance from Radhm al-Qawari. The houses of this village are better than in most of the Bahrain villages; they are large and airy and some of them have blocks of stone from the tombs in their walls. As in the case of so many Bahrain villages, Aali stands on a slight elevation surrounded by date gardens.

RIFAA AL-GHARBI

644 Straddling Awal Road on the edge of the rim-rock is the town of
361 West Rifaa, the winter residence of H.H. The Ruler of Bahrain as well as of many of his family and retainers. This settlement is comparatively modern, having been built by the present Ruler before he succeeded in 1942. Constructed in the traditional Arab pattern, the Palace is in the centre of the town and the other houses are widely scattered about it. The Ruler's love of gardens has caused the road to be lined with trees, and it is a pleasant surprise on coming across the desert surrounding the town to pass through a shady green avenue. During the three months of the Summer the Ruler lives in Manama, but as soon as the cool weather returns a long procession of cars and lorries moves slowly out of Rifaa, the lights go on, and overnight the appearance of West Rifaa is changed from a deserted town to a scene of much activity.

RIFAA ASH-SHARQI

361 This is the fourth largest town in Bahrain and has a population
712 of about 3,000. East Rifaa is without doubt the most picturesque of Bahrain's towns and villages. When approached from the west, from the plain near Awali, the fortress, which dominates the valley, presents a most romantic appearance and carries one's thoughts back

to the days when the Rulers of Bahrain lived here and ruled the Islands from the castle. Below the fortresss is the spring of Hanani, whose water is the best in Bahrain, and a plain where, in the rainy season, a small lake forms and on disappearing leaves in its place a bright lawn of grass. Rifaa has been expanding rapidly during recent years, the town is spreading to the south-east, and it now possesses boys' and girls' schools and a Municipality. Some members of the Ruling Family still live in the town which has expanded owing to the development of the oil industry, in which some 500 of its male inhabitants are working.

The situation of the town is ideal for strategical purposes, from it it is possible to see Manama, Muharraq and Sitra while the land around it is free of vegetation which could have served to hide the enemy. It has an excellent climate and is drier than Manama in the summer. To the north of the town are two small graves where members of the Khalifah family are buried; these fell in battle during a civil war which took place in the 19th century.

There is a tradition connected with the fortress of Rifaa. It is said to have been built in the 17th century by the Wazir of the then Ruler, a certain Shaikh Jabbara. For years the Ruler and his wazir worked together, but one day the Shaikh was told about the beauty of the wazir's wife, and he desired her. He was tricked into believing that he had visited her, though in fact he was entertained by her maid-servant. He was so angry at the deception, about which the wazir knew nothing, that he killed him. The Wazir's widow thereupon fled from Rifaa to the mainland, from where she wrote to the Shah of Persia sending him a minature palm tree of pearls and gold and saying that so rich was Bahrain that such a tree was given to a child as a toy. She succeeded in exciting the avarice of the Persian Shah, who sent an army to Bahrain, defeated and killed Shaikh Jabbara, and annexed the Islands to Persia, thus avenging the Wazir's wife. This same Shaikh Jabbara is said to have lived in the fort of Amr, south-east of the Jebel, which is mentioned in Chapter VIII.

There is a third Rifaa, a small community built by BAPCO for its Indian and Pakstani employees; this is mentioned in the Chapter on Bahrain's Oil.

AWALI

Meaning "The High Places," this name was given by Shaikh Hamed, the late Ruler of Bahrain, to the oil camp when it was first established in its present location. Before the oil company arrived in Bahrain the site was deserted—for who would live in the middle of a waterless desert? But the company wanted to build their town near the oil field, and so the small, 240 foot, hill was chosen. Today Awali somewhat resembles a London surburb or a small American town. As in London, varied gardens and different coloured exteriors of the houses serve to disguise their basic similarity. In these gardens children play while their mothers chat to each other over the fences. Happy

1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

361 382 [162] laughter comes from the Club House Swimming Bath and in the evenings sports of all kinds take place inside the camp. Today Awali is a town of some 400 houses inhabited by 2,000 Europeans and Americans. Shady trees line the roads and in fact there is little to suggest the presence of oil. The roads are surfaced with it, but otherwise it is not visible, though oil is the *raison d'etre* of this town set in such an inhospitable situation, to which water has to be piped from miles away and where to plant a tree a pneumatic drill is required to pierce the rock on which the town is built.

SAKHIR

361 Driving from Awali to Zellaq the traveller will notice a group of large buildings on the south of the road near the foot of the Jebal. This is Sakhir, founded by Shaikh Muhammad bin Khalifa (1843-67, d. 1890), but the majority of buildings which exist today were built by the late Ruler of Bahrain. The present Ruler makes little use of Sakhir, and the attractive mosques, balconied dwelling houses and high roofed rooms are now deserted ; the only human beings who remain are the Bedouin in charge of the horses and camels which are still kept there. The climate of Sakhir is excellent and in the spring there are fields of grass which provide grazing both for domestic animals, gazelle and hare. When Sakhir was occupied Saluqis were much in evidence, Shaikh Hamed was a great lover of this fine breed of dogs and his favourite hound, Housha, followed him wherever he went. It should be remembered that Sakhir is the private property of the Ruler, from whom permission must be obtained before it is visited. [486]

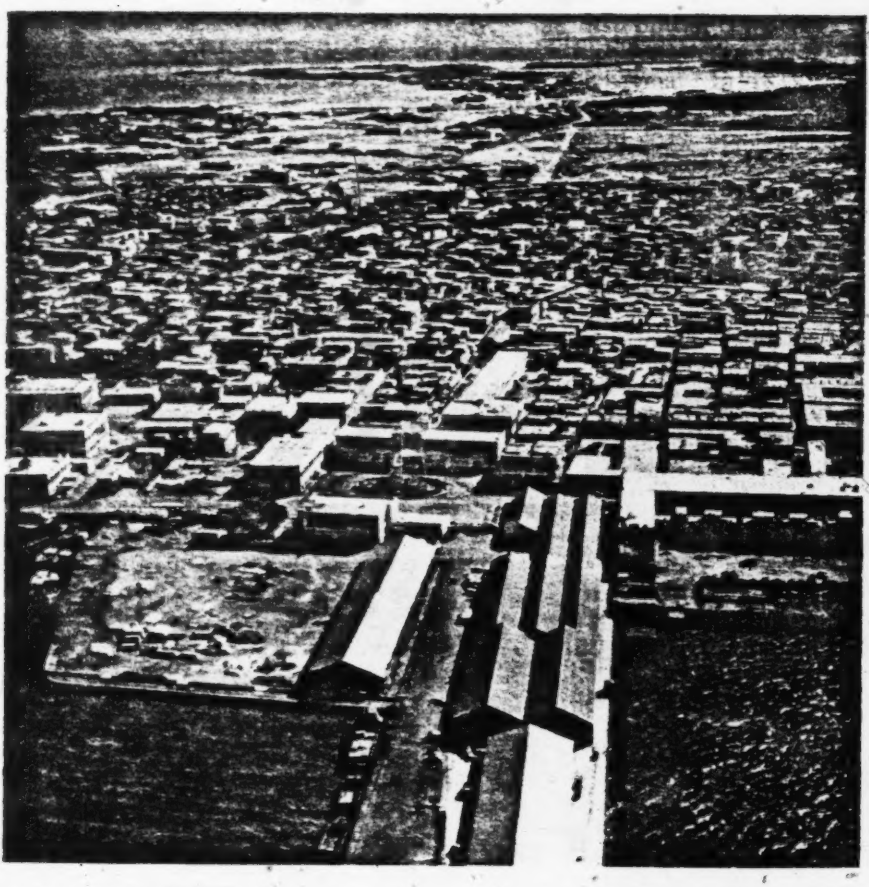
JEBAL AD-DUKHAN

133 The "Mountain" of Bahrain has already been mentioned in the Introduction, but it deserves further notice. From its peak, which is marked by a trigonometry marker, it is possible to see, on a clear day, the entire area of Bahrain from Manama and Muharraq on the north to Ras al-Barr, while on the east and west the sea is even nearer. From the peak an excellent bird's eye view of Awali can be seen, and, at night, the flares at Dhahran and at Dukhan in Qatar are visible. The strange formation of the island, with the rim-rock and the central depression can be seen from the Jebal. At the head of a wadi facing towards Awali is the Jebal cave, some 15 × 35 × 6 ft., which is hollowed out of the rock, probably by water erosion for the fantastic patterns on the walls would seem to point to nature's rather than man's handiwork.

JAW AND DOUR (DAR AL-MANADIL)

361 On the east coast of Bahrain about a mile south of the highest peak of the Jebal are the villages of Dour and Jaw, similar in character and appearance and the southernmost inhabited villages on the east coast of Bahrain. The villages are about a mile apart and both are on the shore, they consist of a poor type of stone and gypsum hut inhabited [342]

361



Aerial view of central Manama looking from the north. In the foreground is the Customs Pier, Shaikh Sulman Square and Bab al-Bahrain.

Photo : Bahrain Government.

by Sunni Arabs who were prosperous when the pearling industry flourished but who depend today upon fishing, the oil company and transporting jus from Hawar for their living. In the summer the heat and the shortage of water (for although Jaw has a well it is brackish and more to the taste of the date palms that grow around it than to the people) drive most of the inhabitants to migrate to Sitra. Jaw was once spread some distance along the shore, as can be seen from the ruins that surround it, and in addition to having been a pearling centre it was inhabited by the people of Zubara when they wanted to escape the tyrannical rule of the Wahhabis in the 19th century. Jaw is the point on Bahrain nearest to Zubara and the Qatar coast, and for that reason it was always garrisoned when there was a threat to Bahrain from the mainland, but today the Police Camel Corps, which is stationed there, is to prevent the smuggling into Bahrain of Arabs from the Trucial Coast who come seeking work.

North of Jaw on the road to the Refinery is Asker and opposite it the island of Mushaikha, where an old tomb is the centre of pilgrimage for one of the Moslem sects, the Buharas. The interior of the tomb is filled with bottles of rose water, brought by pilgrims as offerings. Asker itself is a village much like Jaw and Dour.

JIDHAFS

We must now return to Manama and follow the other road that leads out of the town, this time in the direction of Budaiya. After passing through some miles of gardens the road reaches Jidhafs, a large village, which is also said to have been at one time the capital of Bahrain. Its inhabitants have a reputation for being enterprising and go-ahead, they have recently demonstrated this by deciding to build a club, the first in any of the villages, although in the towns there are many. Jidhafs contains one of the Shiite Juma Mosques and Friday Prayer is said there. It may seem strange that this should be a claim to fame, but according to Moslem custom only certain mosques are used for the Friday Prayers which is intended to encourage large congregations and to prevent the dispersal of the faithful in all the other mosques.

Like all the villagers, those of Jidhafs enjoy a visit to the town every now and then, and in the evenings bus loads of men and many cyclists can be seen coming in to town to enjoy themselves by going to the cinema or sitting gossiping with their friends in the coffee-shops to the blare of wireless music.

South of Jidhafs in the direction of Suq al-Khamis is the village of Ain al-Dar; although today it presents a quiet and peaceful appearance it was once the headquarters of a notorious gang of robbers who used a ruined house, inhabited by a lunatic, as a cache for storing their loot.

BUDAIYA

This strange town, on the north-western tip of Bahrain Island, is connected with Manama by a good motor road which runs through the village of Jidhafs. Budaiya used to be a large town, divided into Two quarters still spoken of as North and South Budaiya.

two quarters still spoken of as North and South Budaiya. It[1] was the home of the Dawasir tribe who came to Bahrain shortly after it was conquered by the al-Khalifah and established themselves here. The tribe acquired great wealth and prestige, owning many pearling dhows, and by degrees they became so powerful that they were able to raid with impunity the neighbouring Bahrana villages. They even challenged the authority of the al-Khalifah, but Shaikh Hamed, on becoming Deputy Ruler in 1924, threatened to punish them if they did not behave. This they considered as an infringement of their liberties and they therefore announced to the Ruler that if he prevented them behaving as they were accustomed, they would leave Bahrain and settle in Saudi Arabia. Shaikh Hamed refused to give way and the Dawasir left Bahrain. This, however, was not the last of them, for during many years it was believed that they were preparing to invade Bahrain. To prevent this a force was maintained in the Islands. However, the scare eventually died down and Budaiya after lying deserted, was later partly re-occupied by other Bahrainis, while some of the Dawasir gradually returned, many of them settling in Manama and Muharraq.

The ruins of great houses and mosques still remain, while scattered between them are the houses of the new inhabitants, who do much fishing in the prolific waters near the town, and also work in Manama and Awali. Before reaching the Police Post that marks the entrance to Budaiya the road passes through the Government Experimental Garden where new agricultural methods are tried and where cows and sheep, kept under scientific conditions, are studied for their productivity. From the Budaiya Pier launches go to Jidda, the prison island, many of whose inmates come over daily to work in the Budaiya Garden. The Pier is also used by the Ruler when he visits his island of Umm an-Nasaan.

The small Government school at Budaiya just south of the Government gardens, in addition to teaching the usual Primary School subjects gives lessons in agriculture for many of the boys' fathers own or work in gardens in the neighbourhood.

DIRAZ

Diraz is a village about half a mile north of the Budaiya Road and about 1½ miles from Budaiya itself. It consists mainly of stone houses, many of which are two-storied. The village stands on high ground among the sand dunes and is very similar to Beni Jumra which faces it a little way off on the opposite side of the road. It is so surrounded by clumps of date palms that its size is not appreciated from the road. A feature noticeable here, as well as in many other parts of Bahrain, is that date palms grow in groups at the bottom of depressions in the sand and are not irrigated by water channels but obtain moisture from below the surface of the ground.

North-west of the village there are mounds which indicate the existence of a much larger settlement in the past and an extensive area of ground is covered with glass and pottery sherds. Among the ruins

[1] [The town of Budaiya . . Analyst]

there is a deep depression surrounded by large blocks of stone which was once a great spring said to have irrigated much of north-western Bahrain. This spring, known as Ain Sejour, is traditionally associated with the name of the Caliph Abd al-Malik (685-705) who is reputed to have come to Bahrain with an army to chastise the people who had given refuge to politico-religious refugees from Iraq. According to local histories the Bahrainis worsted the invaders in a war by a clever use of the underground water channels and a truce was signed. Later the Caliph is said to have murdered the Bahraini leaders and to have filled in this well "to reduce the pride of the people of Bahrain," since then it has been dry and the land around it has reverted to desert. It seems unlikely that the Caliph himself came to Bahrain, he probably sent one of his generals and later tradition ascribed the leadership to the Caliph himself. 172

Several well-to-do families own houses in Diraz, and when pearling flourished its people were important nakhudas (captains) and pearl merchants. Many of the villagers are still divers and keep their boats on the shore near the little mosque north of Budaiya Garden. For use in these boats the villagers weave their own sail-cloth on local looms. 228 288 554

JESRA

On the edge of the open plain about 4 miles south of Budaiya is Jesra, the point where the pipeline from Arabia crosses to Bahrain, here also is a village whose Arab inhabitants are mainly retainers of the Ruling Family. Several Shaikhs have also built substantial houses in the village, as well as gardens irrigated from artesian wells. Another road leads from Jesra to Rifaa al-Gharbi, following the route of the pipeline across the desert. 315 361 491

MALAKIYA

Four miles south of Jesra the road, after passing through the villages of Karzakan and Dumistan, enters the little village of Malakiya, set in the centre of thriving date gardens, some of which belong to merchants in Manama. The only claim to interest in this village is a large tomb which is held in great veneration by the Shia community of Bahrain and is visited by pilgrims from all parts of the Islands. The tomb is of a certain Amir Zaid, but there is some difference of opinion about his identity. Some contend that he was Zaid bin Sohan, one of the Companions of the Prophet, but according to other local authorities he was a certain Amir Zaid bin Umaira al-Abdi who witnessed a covenant of truce made between the people of the Islands and al-Mua'lla bin al-Hadrami, the Moslem conqueror of Bahrain. A third version is that the worthy Amir was the leader of the people of Bahrain in a war that took place between them and the Caliph Abd al-Malik (See paragraph on Diraz). It has not yet been decided which of these versions is in fact the true one, but this does not deter Shia pilgrims from visiting Malakiya. 361 778

ZELLAQ

361 South again of Malakiya is Zellaq, the southernmost village on the
342 western Coast of Bahrain and approximately three miles west of Sakhir. A road runs from Zellaq to Awali and is much used by BAPCO employees coming to swim at the former place. The houses of Zellaq village, which are of stone, are built along the shore and many of them are large and spacious. As a result of the activities of BAPCO, Zellaq village has increased in size and prosperity and now contains a number of substantial white stone buildings which are conspicuous from a long distance across the flat and sandy plain that surrounds it.

162 The inhabitants of Zellaq are Sunni Arabs; some are from the Dawasir tribe, and many of them are dependents of the Ruling Family.
311 North of the village there are a number of large gardens, irrigated by innumerable artesian wells, which are owned by members of the Ruling Family and by their servants; these gardens form a green belt along the two miles of coast between Zellaq and Sedad.

312 The Bahrain Petroleum Company has a pump house at Zellaq which supplies Awali with much of its water and Zellaq was also once the discharging point for tankers bringing crude oil from Saudi
517 Arabia, before the submarine pipe-line was laid. Near the pumping station is the BAPCO Plage, the excellent bathing place which is much used by the employees of BAPCO, particularly in the Summer evenings.

RAS AL-BARR

521 This, the southernmost point of the Bahrain islands, is a popular
484 place for summer picnics, but the approaches to it are difficult, and although never dangerous they can easily cause trouble to visitors by
491 the softness of the sand. It is best to travel in parties with not less than two cars, so that one can come to the help of the other if necessary, and care should be taken to keep to the tracks, however faintly indicated rather than to carve out new roads in the desert. The road to Ras al-Barr from Zellaq first passes through Mutalla, the Ruler's hunting lodge, while that from Awali past the Jebel passes another hunting lodge at Rumaitha before joining the Western road at Akala. From here the road goes south, past the swamps on the coast and along the narrow strip of sand which marks the end of the island.

136 In certain seasons of the year the shores along this part of Bahrain
262 are covered with the eggs of sea-birds, and many Arab dhows anchor off the coast while the crews remove the eggs for food. If one is lucky, while driving down the coast, hare and gazelle may be seen, as well as rose-tinted flamingoes on the shore.

MUHARRAQ ISLAND

MUHARRAQ

491 The visitor from Manama approaches Muharraq by crossing the
486 1½ mile long causeway and Shaikh Hamed Bridge, completed in 1942,

which opens at 11 a.m. and at midnight, for an hour, to allow the passage of vessels through the deep channel between the two islands. There is a toll gate at the bridge and cars coming from Muharraq to Manama are charged 4 annas. Beyond the bridge, around a group of white buildings, the Customs House, Police Station and Municipal Office, there is always a scene of much activity. Here boats unload their cargoes and buses fill with passengers bound for all parts of the Islands. The sea road continues along the water front until it turns inland towards the airport. Much of the ground inside the sea road has not yet been reclaimed and at high tide the sea forms little squares of still water where children sail home-made boats. On Muharraq sea front there are several important buildings, a government dispensary, a large school and, at the northern corner, a block of flats.

Another road, opposite the causeway, runs up into the town passing through the bazaars, which branch off to the north and south. The Muharraq shops are of the old fashioned type, with neither plate glass nor fixed prices. There are antique dealers and carpet sellers and all the usual traders found in Arab towns. Ships chandlers are numerous as Muharraq has always been a sea faring centre. Arab chests, carved or brass bound, carpets, worked leather sandals, divers' equipment and goods of interest to tourists can be bought here at prices lower after judicious bargaining, than those in Manama.

Today Muharraq is still a typically Arab town, a fact of which its inhabitants are proud. Most of the shops are owned by Arabs and are not occupied by Indians or Persians as in Manama. The town, although it was once the capital of Bahrain, the centre of the pearl industry and the focus of trade (a fact that its inhabitants remember with pride) has developed more slowly than Manama. There are few modern buildings, only one cinema and no large European style shops, but its climate is said to be pleasanter than Manama and it is not so humid in the summer. Muharraq was once a walled town but no traces of the walls now remain. The high old houses which line the narrow streets have changed little during the last century, except where corners have been cut away to make passages for large American cars. Many of the larger houses belong to the Ruling Family. They are built around courtyards and in some cases a big house contains three or four such courtyards, surrounded by high walls with few outward-looking windows in them to screen the house from prying eyes.

Muharraq has a telephone service, electric light, a Post Office and a filling station, but no main water supply, apart from artesian wells. As in the case of Manama, the affairs of the town are controlled by an elected Municipal Council presided over by a member of the Ruling Family.

The sea surrounds the town on three sides but at the northern end a new residential area is developing on land which is being sold by the Municipality for building purposes. East of the town is the bay of Arad, the ancient name for Muharraq at the time of Alexander,

361 and on the shore there is an old deserted fort which was built by the Omanis during a short period when they occupied the Islands. A [504] ferry service of small sailing boats plies between Muharraq and Arad fort, but to drive round the bay to the fort by car takes less time than crossing by boat.

396 Boat building is one of the few local industries of Muharraq and is carried out along the shores of the town, especially on the eastern coast. Carpenters and shipwrights are apt to extend their work half across the road and when driving a car one often has to avoid sails which are pegged out for joining or for repairs, rope winders, men mending nets or carpenters working on big wooden water tanks for the pearling dhows.

361 Many visitors to Bahrain never enter Muharraq and by failing to do
178 so they miss the sight of a comparatively untouched Arab town, a sight that is rapidly becoming rarer in the oil rich Persian Gulf.

HEDD

361 Bahrain's number three town is Hedd. Long and narrow, it is built on a strip of land which juts out into the sea at the south-east end of Muharraq Island. The houses are closely packed together and extend right to the edge of the sea, one road, only just wide enough for motor vehicles, runs through the centre of the town and on each side a labyrinth of narrow lanes leads down to the shore. There are few barastis in Hedd and most of the people live in stone houses ; some of them are large, built by pearl merchants in the days when the pearl industry of which Hedd was an important centre, was flourishing. The bazaar is in the main street and it contains many shops which sell all manner of goods. Water is supplied to the town by several artesian wells.

[162] The population of Hedd is entirely Sunni and predominantly Arab, although a few of the shopkeepers are Persians. It includes Arabs of the Bin Ali, Saada, Mesedem and Musallam tribes who used to be very influential in Bahrain ; the last were once the rulers of Qatar. Hedd was originally a diving town but although it still has much contact with the sea, many of its inhabitants work on shore. Its people have a reputation for intelligence and energy and this is shown by the fact that they have produced better results from their schools than any other community. The town is conspicuously clean, owing partly to the fact that it is surrounded by the sea on three sides.

362 Hedd has a handsome new police station, at the entrance to the
633 town, which was completed in 1952, a Municipality and Boys' and Girls' Schools which were opened in 1937 and 1939 respectively. For some years the Muharraq Municipality included Hedd in its activities but in 1945 Hedd formed its own elected Municipal Council with four members. There is also in Hedd a dispensary and a small women's hospital with accommodation for a certain number of in-patients.
226 Hedd is famous for its prawns which are caught in special traps and sent to the fish markets of Manama and Muharraq.

There is a bus service between Hedd and Muharraq and also a few taxi cabs in the town.

In addition to the towns of Muharraq and Hedd the island of Muharraq is fringed by many villages ; going north round the coast from Muharraq town they include Busatin, Dair, Raiya, Galali and Arad. The first three villages contain many homes of members of the Ruling Family and are especially popular in the summer when the Muharraq weather is considered superior to that of Manama. Galali is a sizeable village inhabited by fishermen and industrial workers, while Arad is the centre of the agriculture of the island and is built near a large pool in the centre of the date gardens on Arad peninsular. The inhabitants of the village work in the gardens, but on the shores of the Bay near the old Omani fort is a large village built entirely of barastis. In the summer this temporary village is entirely filled with people from Muharraq who spend the nights here, crossing by ferry every day to Muharraq town.

In general Muharraq island is very low-lying, so much so that it was thought at one time that there was a danger of the sea affecting the efficiency of the Airport, but this has been removed by pumping stations around the field which remove, when necessary, surplus water from the runways. It was, however, found necessary to build a raised road from Muharraq town to Hedd, for when there was any rain or an exceptionally high tide the road was often blocked.

UMM ASH-SHAGAR ISLANDS AND UMM ASH-SHIYAIRA

These are the two islands that lie to the south of Hedd town; the former, to the north, is covered with small stone and barasti houses; the second, whose name is a diminutive of the first, contains only barastis and is inhabited by fishermen.

THE ISLANDS

In addition to these two, there are several other small islands south of Muharraq, of which the three largest, although none of them is more than a few hundred square yards in area, are Halat-as-Suluta, Hâlat-al-Khulaifat and Abu Mahur.

The first two islands lie to the south of Arad peninsular and at low tide they are joined by a sand-bar which permits walking between them. They contain small villages, whose people derive their livlihood from fishing, and they are lucky enough to have on them fresh water springs. Abu Mahur, the third and largest island, is in fact named after one of the largest of these springs, which is in the sea a short distance from the shore. The fort of Abu Mahur is now in ruins but the island is now used as a quarantine station.

The fresh water submarine springs south of Muharraq and the manner in which the people obtain water from them has astounded

many of the travellers who have visited the islands. Men with deflated sheepskins dive down to the spring and place the mouth of the skin over the place where the fresh water emerges ; the skin then fills with fresh water and when full the diver comes to the surface. Before artesian wells were drilled in Bahrain both Muharraq and Manama obtained much of their water in this way, but today, owing to artesian piped wells and water systems, the undersea springs are little used except those to the north of Bahrain near the pearling banks. A Turkish traveller who visited Bahrain in 1554, Sidi Ali, says of the submarine springs, "The sailors provided with a leather sack, dive down into the sea and bring the fresh water from the bottom for Rais Murad's (the Governor of Bahrain) use. This water is particularly pleasant and cold in spring time. God's Power is boundless !" There is a legend concerning the spring of Abu Mahur which says that in the time of the Caliph Merwan (684-685) a certain Ibn Hakim, a chief in Qatif, wished to marry the lovely daughter of a Bahrain shaikh. His suit was refused and so he attacked the islands and captured all the wells which supplied the towns on Bahrain Island, but the guardian diety of the Bahrainis caused the well Abu Mahur to appear in the sea near Muharraq to succour his people.

NABIH SALIH

A most attractive island is Nabih Salih, set in the Khor-al-Kab between Umm al-Hassan and the mainland of Bahrain. With its thick cultivation, for the date palms run right down to the sea shore, and its many springs, including a large pool much frequented by bathers, Nabih Salih is a very popular place for visitors. In addition to its pool it is a place of pilgrimage for the Shia of Bahrain who go to pay their respects to the tomb of Salih after whom the island is named. The date palms of the island are particularly fine, they compare very favourably with those elsewhere in Bahrain, which is mainly due to the pool already mentioned, Safahiya, which irrigates much of the island. Nabih Salih can be visited by launch or sailing boat, the nearest point to it on Bahrain is Ain al-Hakim ; boats can also be obtained from Umm al-Hasan or from Sitra. People have been known to swim to the island, but this is not the only way of getting there and in the summer this method is inclined to be rather exhausting.

SITRA

South of Nabih Salih and close to the coast of Bahrain is Sitra Island, which in addition to its many villages and gardens contains the Tank Farm and Drum Plant of BAPCO and the land end of the jetty. The site of these installations is a strip of bare and often sea-swept sands, but to the north of the island there are many gardens and a sizeable pool, Ain Raha, which is much visited by the people of Muharraq and Manama. Among the villages of North Sitra are Wadiyan, Sufala, Kharijya and Kuriya. Near the third village is a school and police station. To the south of the island is Umm al-Baidh, literally "Mother

of the Egg," a small village with many seafaring inhabitants. To the north of Sitra there is a very pleasant sandy beach looking towards Umm a-Hasan where there is excellent bathing; the view also includes Nabih Salih and Jaziyra. There is deep water to the north of Sitra, and it is here that the Bahrain Government is building the new Port of Manama with a pier running into deep water from the shore between Umm al-Hasan and Jufair.

JIDDA

This island is about 2½ miles from Budaiya. It is small and rocky and in appearance unlike any of the other Bahrain Islands. Its high cliffs rise abruptly from the water and a few fort-like buildings are silhouetted against the sky-line. On the south side of the island there is a level strip of land which is extensively cultivated. Jidda is Bahrain's penal settlement; here all long term prisoners are detained, spending their time cutting stone, weaving and working in the gardens. There is a small house on the top of the cliffs above the jetty which catches all the wind in the summer and which is used by the Adviser to the Bahrain Government. Being a prison island, Jidda is forbidden to general visitors.

The stone quarries at Jidda are of great age and it is likely that the large stones which line the graves in the burial mounds were cut here. There is an Arabic inscription roughly cut on one of the cliffs which reads as follows :

"During the month of Shaban in the year 968 (April/May, 1561) there was completed the cutting of the 100,000th rock for the mending of the tower of the Bahrain fort in the wazirate of the Great Wazir Jilal ad-Din Murad Mahmud by the hand of the slave . . . " (a few words after this are unreadable).

UMM AN-NASAAN

This, the second largest of the Bahrain islands, lies a few miles across the shallow water to the south of Jidda. It is sandy and flat, with the exception of two small limestone hills towards its centre which break the monotony of its shape. At the north end of the island there are several natural springs and artesian wells from which extensive date gardens are irrigated; they were planted by the late Ruler of Bahrain, H.H. Shaikh Hamed, who also established on the island a herd of black buck and gazelle, the former being imported from India and the latter from the mainland of Bahrain.

There is evidence of ancient habitations on Umm an-Nasan, foundations of many old houses are visible and sherds of pottery can be picked up. Local legend has it that Nasaan, after whom the island is named, was one of the early rulers of Bahrain, but this legend has not been substantiated by historical research.

HOWAR ISLANDS

101 This group of 16 islands is about twelve miles south-east of Ras al-Barr. It consists of one large island, Howar itself, which is about eleven miles long and a mile in breadth, and fifteen other islands much smaller in size. In the centre of the main island there is a rocky [361] eminence known as al-Jebal. There are only two villages, the larger one at the northern end on the shore of the bay consists of stone huts [625] with mat roofs (Kubbar); it also has a small mosque. The Bahrain State Police maintain a garrison on the island, in a fort which dominates [162] the bay and from the roof of which the Qatar peninsular is visible. The islands are inhabited by fishermen from Bahrain and also by men [312] who come to cut gypsum which they sell in Bahrain. The water supply of the island is very limited and consists of old cisterns cut out of living rock which are filled by rain. Attempts to drill for water have failed, but in the years when there is normal or plentiful rainfall the island provides good grazing for camels and sheep. Fishing in the 133 bay is excellent, the water is comparatively deep and a launch can 503 come alongside the short jetty. The southern tip of the island is so close to the Qatar coast that when the tide is out boats cannot pass between the island and the shore, but at one place between Howar and Qatar, a long narrow channel has been hewn out of the coral sea bed to allow boats to pass through a shallow stretch of water. This submarine canal was made by a certain Isa ibn Tarif, a notorious pirate, who played an important part in the history of Bahrain during the middle of the last century; he used the channel as a passage to his fortress on the Qatar coast from where he sallied forth to attack the shipping around Bahrain.

132 The climate of Howar is noticeably better than in Bahrain, it is drier and cooler during the summer nights, but has no other amenities to attract visitors fleeing from the dampness of Bahrain, and at present its only visitors go there for work and not for pleasure.

ZUBARA

361 On the coast of the Qatar peninsular opposite the Bahraini village
172 of Jaw is the ruined town and the bay of Zubara, which has already been mentioned in detail in the history of Bahrain in Part II. The town of Zubara is on the east of the bay and stretches about 1½ miles along the coast and 2 miles inland. The ruins of the town are still impressive. The high wall which surrounds the wide straight streets and the fine mosques, the obvious care with which the town was laid out, speaks well for those who governed it. Further east of the town, at a distance of about two miles across the desert, is the great fort; some of the walls and the mosque are still standing. At the corners of the walls are towers with slits for rifles and the domed roof of the mosque presents an attractive picture. The whole building is made from local stone and little gypsum was used in its construction. Within the fort there are two wells one of which is dry, but the other still

contains a substantial amount of water which is protected from evaporation by the narrowness of the well's neck. The Bahraini members of the Naim tribe who live here do not occupy the fort but live in two villages in the neighbourhood, which have the advantage of being near wells. On the whole, however, Zubara is most unfertile, the soil is thick with salt which appears on the surface and it is easy to see that the only *raison d'etre* of the town was the sea and commerce. The fort itself was once connected with the sea by a long, deep canal, some 100 feet wide, which served the dual purpose of filling the moat about the fort and permitting ships to approach it. Today the eastern section of the canal has been filled in by sand, and the sea only reaches about 1½ miles inland.

Gazelle abound in Zubara, and also jackals.

1; Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

361

An Aerial view of Muharraq town.

Photo : Bahrain Government.

1: Belgrave F-3 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

526
226

The Results of a Fishing Expedition. *Photo: Y. A. Shirawi.*

312
361

A Village Pool, North Sitra. *Photo: The Author.*

Rifaa Ash-Sharqi. *Photo: The Author.*

526

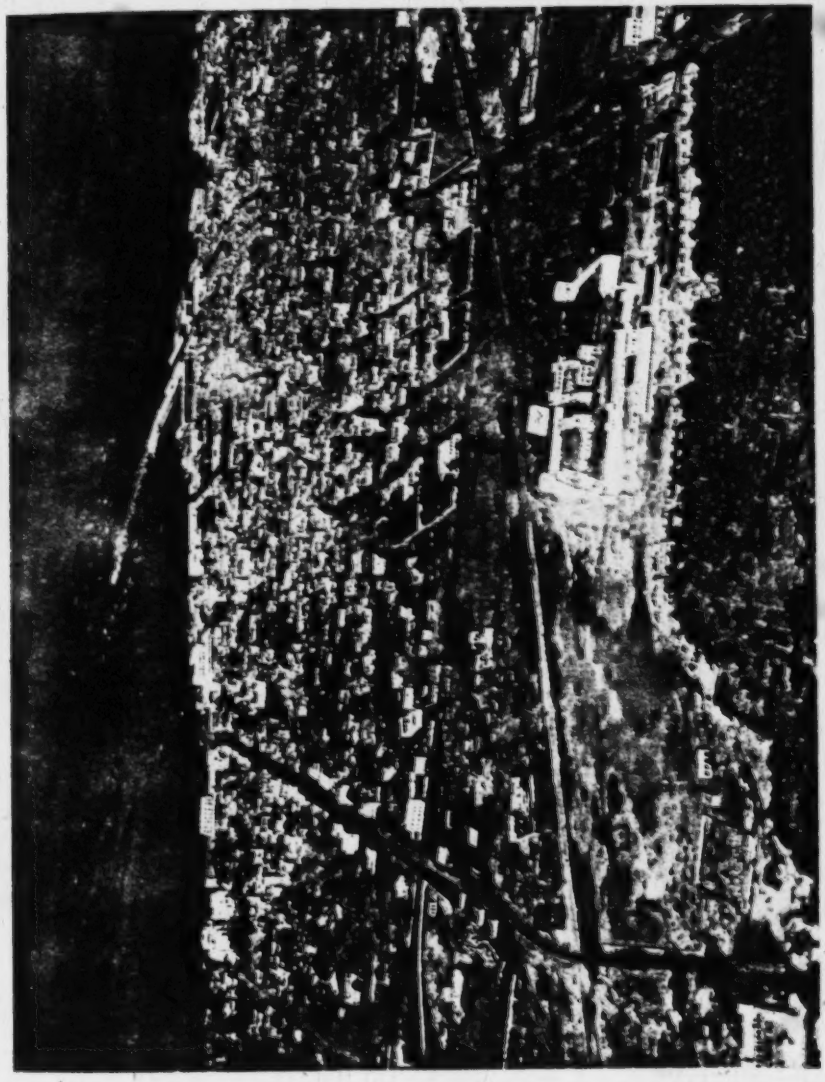
A Bahrain Football Team.

of Hormuz. The Governor of Muscat refused to submit, so the town was pounded by the Portuguese guns until it surrendered. The Portuguese landed and captured many of the chief inhabitants, whose ears and noses they chopped off; the city was plundered and then wantonly destroyed by fire, and the victorious fleet sailed off along the Oman coast and captured several other ports, which were treated in the same way. After this Alboquerque turned his attention to Hormuz, the key of the Iranian Gulf.

To-day Hormuz is a tiny fishing village on a barren salty island which is visible from ships as they enter the port of Bander Abbas, but when Alboquerque first sailed the waters of the Gulf, Hormuz had the reputation of being a city of fabulous wealth and incomparable luxury and magnificence. The city was originally on the mainland, but when the Tartar hordes swept over Persia it was destroyed and then rebuilt on the island. So famous were the wonders of Hormuz that the sixteenth-century poets in Europe frequently referred to it in their works. To this "jewelled signet of a golden ring" came merchants from all parts of the Orient trading in precious Eastern wares. In the richly stocked markets of Hormuz they sold silks and jewels, ivory and pearls, cloths of silver and of gold, as well as Arab horses and "the finest asses in the world," which may well have been the forbears of the famous Bahrain strain of white donkeys. Even to-day these donkeys have a great reputation and are found as far off as the centre of the Tanganyika Territory in East Africa, where they were taken by Baluchis from Muscat via Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam. The King of Hormuz, who had accumulated great wealth from the Indian trade and the pearl fisheries, possessed large territories both in Iran and on the Arab coast. The islands of Bahrain were subject to Hormuz, which was the distributing centre for the pearls of the Gulf, but Hormuz itself paid tribute to the Sultan of Kerman. The rapid success of the Portuguese navy, both on the Indian coast and in Oman, established for it a reputation of invincibility, and the coming of the foreign conquerors with their strange ships and weapons spread fear and terror along the coasts and the islands of the Gulf.

When Alboquerque and his fleet of tall ships arrived at Hormuz he found that the King was aware of his intention and the Hormuzians were prepared to defend their island. The harbour was filled with ships, the battlements were lined with armed men, and foreign mercenaries had been called in to assist the defenders. Bahrain had sent a fleet with "relief of men and provisions," but the Portuguese met the

361



Manama Town from the South. In the foreground, the Fort.

[facing page 30]

4: Bahrain G-5 (no date) 1953 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

●361

Muharraq Town and the Causeway.
In centre foreground, a fish trap.

[facing page 32]

5: Bahrain G-5 (1926-1937), 1937 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

632 744 women's dispensary in Manamah, which is in charge of a midwife who was trained in Iraq and was for some years in the Basra Civil Hospital. The work done among the women is much appreciated and is, in my opinion, very valuable. Bahrain is notorious as being the one place in the Gulf where local midwives still administer a certain sort of treatment to women after childbirth which has the most disastrous effects on ensuing childbirth. It is hoped that the work of trained midwives will combat the local practices.

All stagnant water inside the municipal area is sprayed regularly with crude oil, which is provided free for the purpose by the Bahrain Petroleum Company.

Gardens, Cemeteries. About thirteen years ago the Manamah municipality bought a large piece of ground inside the town for a municipal garden. Two years later an artesian well was drilled there and a quantity of trees, mostly obtained from Karachi, were planted in the garden. The trees are now very tall, and the garden is much frequented by the public, especially during the hot weather, when quantities of people go there in the afternoons and sit in the shade under the trees. Part of the ground has been made into a small zoological garden, and the Bahrain Sports Club, by arrangement with the municipality, has built two cement tennis courts, which are much used. It has been proposed regularly for the last four or five years in the municipal council that on one afternoon the garden should be set aside for women only. Every year the motion has been defeated, but each year by a smaller number of votes.

Two large cemeteries, formerly open on all sides, inside the town were surrounded by stone walls in 1930, which has done much to improve the appearance of the part of the town where they are situated. The tomb of Shaikh Ahmed, the first Khalifah Shaikh of Bahrain, on the southern edge of the town, was repaired and walled at the same time.

Muharraq Municipality. 632 ● 361 744 The work of the Muharraq municipality is less conspicuous than that of Manamah. The most important work after town cleaning and road widening has been the filling in of what used to be a noisome creek which reached from the shore almost to the entrance of the bazaar. The reclaimed ground is valuable, and is now occupied by stalls and the taxi stand. The sea road on the north of the customs office was built by the municipality about eight years ago, with assistance of a special grant from the Government. The question of extending this road is now under consideration.

Opportunity for town planning is almost non-existent in Muharraq, as the town is surrounded on three sides by the sea and on the north much of the shore has always been flooded during high tides. The municipality has made some effort to preserve the low-lying land outside the town by building a long, low wall on the shore which keeps back the sea.

During the last two years the Muharraq municipality has carried out work in Hedd, where no municipality exists, widening the main road and filling in a long and very insanitary sewer. The Government made a special grant for this work, which was outside the province of the Muharraq municipality.

The town of Muharraq is very congested; there are no open spaces or public gardens as in Manamah, and the streets are too narrow for trees to be planted in them. For this reason it is difficult to improve the appearance of the place. Houses in Muharraq are old-fashioned in style and, except on the sea road, few of them are detached; the bazaars do not contain any modern shops, and there are no public market buildings. For several years the commercial importance of Muharraq has been declining, though it is still a centre for pearl trading, as most of the biggest pearl merchants live there.

632

MUHARRAQ MUNICIPALITY

Year.	*Revenue.* Rs	*Expenditure.* Rs
1346 ...	46,000/- ...	38,500/-
1347 ...	62,900/- ...	59,600/-
1348 ...	95,600/- ...	82,800/-

6:Faroughy H-5 (no date)1951 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Table 4. NON-MOSLEM POPULATION

Hindus	150
Jews	50
Syrians	60
British	10
Assyro-Chaldeans	5
Total	255

Table 5. SECTS AND TRIBES

Tribe	Race	Sect
Utūb	Zuzara Arabs	Malekites
Bahārinah	Iranians	Shiites
Dawāsir	Arabs of Nejd	Wahabites
Huwāla	Arabs of Persia	Sunnites

The discovery of oil, the essence of foreign trade and international traffic, has brought a considerable increase in the number of non-Moslem residents. At the present time there are some four or five hundred Christians, mostly employees of the Standard Oil Company, five hundred Jews, and about the same number of Hindus.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES

There are about two hundred centers of population in the islands. The most important are:

Bahrein Island

MANAMA,[1] the largest city and the commercial center of the islands, is located in the northern part of Bahrein. It is traditional headquarters for the pearl fisheries and today is the center of the petroleum industry. At present there are about 45,000 inhabitants. The city has a government operated electric plant which also supplies the city of Muharraq on Muharraq Island, and commercial establishments include an ice plant, a large

1. Manāmah literally means a "scala" or "port."

361 bazaar, a movie theatre, branches of the Eastern Bank and the Imperial Bank of Persia, a post office, a broadcasting station and a single gas station.

362 743 Little by little Manama is being modernized and the houses built by the Standard Oil Company for its American and British employees serve as models for the natives in the improvement of their own. There are three hospitals, one operated by the Bahrein Oil Company; a second, for men and women, with a British staff, by the government; and the third by the Arabia Mission of the Dutch Reformed Church in America. However, the facilities of these few establishments are quite limited and even under normal conditions 85% of the population suffers from one or more ailments.

164 548 The diseases endemic in Bahrein are malaria, the entire group of fevers, dysentery both amoebic and bacillary, bilharzia, trachoma and ankylostomiasis. At the head of the list should go the entire family of venereal diseases. Prostitution, forbidden in Saudi Arabia, has increased greatly under the complacent eyes of the authorities and Bahrein has become a kind of "pleasure island" where thousands of native and foreign employees of the oil companies from Arabia spend their 273 leaves and money buying cheap pleasure, drinking arak, a 100 proof, colorless distillation of dates, contributing to vice and the propagation of disease.

164 The island is liable to epidemics of plague and cholera. From 1905 to 1911 Bahrein was visited every second year by plague and during the epidemic of 1911, in Manama, Muharraq and adjacent villages alone, more than two thousand persons died. Since World War I international control of plague and more vigorous quarantine measures by the British administration have limited the recurrence of this disease. Since 1920 epidemics of plague have occurred only at five year intervals.

Cholera epidemics are less frequent, probably because the water supply is less open to contamination than formerly. However, last year's epidemic was as serious in Bahrein as in the other ports of the Persian Gulf.

6:Faroughy H-5 (no date)1951 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Mánama, is the capital of the State, and is the official residence of the Sheik. The Sheik holds court and administers justice once a week on the balcony of the municipal building and petty criminals are publicly flogged by red-turbaned policemen in the market place immediately below.

Manama is also the seat of the higher court composed of two members of the family of the Sheik and presided over by the British Adviser. The British Political Agent, who is under the authority of the Persian Gulf Political Agent at Bushir (in Persia), also has his residence in Manama.

BADAIYA'A is located at the northwestern end of the island, a mile from the coast. The majority of its eight thousand inhabitants belong to the Dawāsīr tribes, famous for their ability as divers. Following the political upheaval of 1923,[1] the Dawāsīr evacuated the town and fled to Damān on the mainland, but the majority later returned.

Near Badaiya'a are the two important centers of *Diraz* and *Jamra.*

ZALLĀQ. Situated on the west coast, this is another important center inhabited by the Dawāsīr fishermen and divers.

BALAD AL-KADIM. Really a cluster of several villages, this is, after Manama, the most active native center, with many palm groves and artesian wells. Its small but important population consists mostly of Baharinah farmers and fishermen. A short distance from the village is the small Sūq al Kaamīs where the Thursday market is held. Half a mile farther on is the famed water source of Abu Zidān with a religious school near by and a noted minaret in the Persian style, reminder of Iranian supremacy.

BURI, another village inhabited entirely by the Baharinah, is located about seven miles south of Manama. It is a date producing center with ten to twelve thousand palm trees.

JIDD HAFS is located about three miles west of Manama on the highway joining that town to Badaiy'a. Populated by the Baharinah, it is one of the most prosperous agricultural centers,

1. See below, p. 99.

6:Faroughy H-5 (no date)1951 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

361 with palm groves containing more than sixteen thousand trees,
162 as well as numerous vegetable gardens and orchards.

Near by is the small village of 'AIN-AD-DAR.

'ALI is located about a mile north of Buri to the west of
[491] the paved main highway running south from Manama to the Jabal Dukhān region. A motor road joins the village to Buri and Karzakkan and the west coast of the island. Situated as it is in the midst of palm groves and vegetable gardens, 'Ali is an important market place. Many of the Persian residents of the island own lovely homes there and the town has a mosque in the Persian style.

SANĀBIS and FALA, on the north shore of the island about three miles west of Manama, are active commercial and fishing centers inhabited by the Baharinah.

RIFA'. The two villages of East Rifa' (Ash-Sharki) and West Rifa' (Al-Gharbi), situated a mile apart, are near the center of the island. Since their location is considered to be one of the most healthful in Bahrein they are not surprisingly inhabited by the Utūb, the tribe to which the Sheik belongs. His immediate
[312] family lives in West Rifa', which is more exclusive though the important water sources are at East Rifa'.

ASKAR. This is another village of interest on the east coast, four and a half miles east of Jabal Dukhān. The inhabitants are the bu 'Ainin, probably the descendants of the people who ruled Bahrein nearly a thousand years ago.

About three miles away is the town of JAU, also on the east coast. Near by are historic ruins, probably the remains of the important ancient town, also called Jau, which is believed to have been the capital of the island in pre-Islamic times.

KIRABAD, or "Oil City," is the initial Awali camp built by the Bahrein Petroleum Company for the use of its employees and popularly known as "Bapco" from the initials of the company. Three miles away is the refinery. The town is on an eleva-
[491] tion eighteen miles south of Manama, to which it is connected by a modern highway also built by the company.

000 "Bapco" has some two hundred homes for married members

Bapco" has some two hundred homes for married members
of the oil company staff and others are under construction. In 362
addition there are office buildings, bachelors' quarters, a club, 365
an eighteen hole golf course, a restaurant, and a new, completely air conditioned hospital for the native employees of the company. All homes and living quarters and most of the commercial buildings are connected with three central air conditioning plants where water is chilled to a temperature of forty-five to fifty degrees Fahreinheit then piped underground to each building, where it is circulated through grilles. In the winter heat is furnished by circulating hot water in the same manner. All drinking water in both the refinery and camp is distilled.

The other villages of importance on the west coast, reading 361
from north to south, are: 103

HUWAR—Located close to the coast of Qatar.
HAMALA.
DAMISTAN.
KARZAKKAN.
MALIKIYA.
SADAD.
SHAHRAKAN.
DAR KULAIB.

On the east coast, from north to south, the important villages are:

JUFAR.
GHURAIFA, with a loading terminal and a nearby military seaplane base with anchorage facilities and limited refueling service.
SILHAT.
KUWARA.
SANAD.
NUWAIDRAT, near the refinery. It has palm groves and is an important center of native trade, where most of the local employees of the oil company live.
MA'AMIR, a small village located on the canal separating the island of Sitra from Bahrein.
FARSIYA.

Muharraq Island

101 This is the second largest island of the group and in all probability the "Aradus" of the classical writers. It is located northeast of Bahrein and is about five and a half square miles in area, horseshoe shaped and only a mile wide. It is separated [491] from Bahrein by a channel spanned by a causeway a mile and a half long with a motor road and by a swinging bridge which was completed in 1941.

361 The chief city is MUHURRAQ, on the western side, the sec-162 ond largest city in the islands and the summer residence of the 633 Sheik. Its population is about 26,000. Muhurraq and Manama, on Bahrein Island, are each administered by a Municipal Committee which in addition to civic duties are jointly responsible for the upkeep of thirty per cent of the roads in the archipelago.

361 Other towns among the sixteen or more on Muhurraq which 162 should be mentioned are:

ARAD. This is an important date producing center with some sixteen thousand palm trees, on the southern shore of the Gulf of Arad. It is inhabited by the Baharinah.

HADD. Second in importance only to Muhurraq, Hadd is the leading pearl fishing center of the islands. It has a population of almost 10,000, consisting of Sādāt and Beni Yās. Since the English began to take a direct hand in the administration of the island it has become possibly the most modern of the cities, [242] with many up-to-date homes and an agricultural experiment [697] station as well as a modern penitentiary and the cottage of the British Financial Adviser.

The villages of Basatin, Qalali, Samahij and Dair, on the north and northeast coasts, are also important. Their population follows the Sunnite faith exclusively and those in Qalali belong to the Manani'a tribe.

508 Muhurraq Island has a military and civil airfield used by 712 the British Overseas Air Service. The field has limited fueling and repair facilities for normal traffic as well as minimum lighting, runway lights, and lighted wind indicators. There are hard surface, all weather runways with an elevation of two feet; the

longest runway, to the nearest hundred feet, is 7400 feet long. There are radio communication and direction finder with voice, and the Radio Bahrein tower operates on 6440 kilocycles, 117.9 mc.

The other principal islands of the Bahrein group are:

SITRA, which is separated from Bahrein by the Sitra Canal, which is about a quarter of a mile wide. The southern part of the island is completely barren but in the north there are small villages, mostly inhabited by Baharinah farmers and fishermen. The most important are Wadiyan, Kharijia, Muhazza and Sufala, all of which are important date growing centers.

NABBI SALIH, the smallest of the five islands, situated about three quarters of a mile off the coast of Bahrein. There are palm groves and two small fishing centers, Kaflan and Karya. The island has many gardens and orchards as well as palm groves with some fifteen thousand trees. It is entirely inhabited by the Baharinah.

UMM NA'SAN, two miles west of Bahrein, a low and sandy island four miles long and triangular in shape. The island is dominated by two rocky peaks, one rising to an elevation of sixty-six feet at about half a mile from the western point of the island, and the other twenty-five feet high situated about half a mile farther to the east. Near the west coast there is a water source used by the people of the west coast of Bahrein, mostly the towns of Badaiya'a and Zallāq, whose custom it is to send their cattle to graze there during the summer.

Besides these principal islands there are a number of smaller ones, mostly inhabited. From north to south and west to east these are:

KHASAIFA.

JARDI.

SAYA, with its fresh water spring, located about half a mile off the west coast of Muharraq Island.

ABU MAHIR, a small island south of Muharraq and connected to it at low tide. There is a small fort on the island erected for the defense of the water source which formerly supplied the people of Muharraq.

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
Bahrain MZ2
Kuwait M11
Saudi Arabia MJ1

companies may need to be defined now that one concessionaire seems likely to create revenue; problems may also arise if, as a result of oil developments, it is planted with a population that will need to be endowed with public services and, no doubt, with a system of taxation.

BAHRAIN

The Bahrain Archipelago is a group of islands in the Gulf of Bahrain, which is bounded on the east by the Qatar Peninsula and on the west by the mainland coast of al-Hasa. Its total area is 213 square miles. The principal island—Bahrain itself—is about thirty miles long and ten miles wide. It is low-lying and its northern end is well watered by fresh water springs and produces good date crops. Citrus fruit and lucerne are also grown. The oilfields lie round the rocky cluster of hills known as Jebel Dukhan (Hill of Smoke), which is in the barren centre of the island.

To the north-east of Bahrain Island, and joined to it by a causeway and motor road, is the low, sandy island of Muharraq, and between the two islands is a good deep-water harbour (Khor Kaliya). It is used as a small British naval base; an American admiral also flies his flag there. Nearby there is a second, but shallow harbour (Bahrain harbour), which faces north and is usefully equipped. The natural aerodrome on Muharraq Island has been developed into the largest commercial airfield in the Persian Gulf and now serves the airliners of all nations. It is also used by the RAF, and the whine of jet aircraft is a commonplace. The south end of the island of Bahrain is low-lying and sandy. The climate, though oppressive in summer owing to the prevalent heat and damp of the western shores of the Persian Gulf, is more humid and less windy than that of Kuwait. The population of the Archipelago was 109,650 when a census was taken in 1950.[1]

The capital and the seat of government is the port of Manama.[2] It is generally referred to as Bahrain, and is situated between the two harbours. It has a population of 39,648, which includes many rich Arab, Persian, and Indian merchants, as well as some 300 Europeans and Americans. The second town, Muharraq, on Muharraq Island, has a population of 24,566 which is purely Arab.

The British Political Agency is in Manama town, which also boasts an electricity station, a wireless station, post offices, hospitals, clubs, public gardens, and up-to-date schools. The town is well supplied with good motor roads, and there are

[1] 1952 estimate, 115,000. [2] Population: 1950, 39,648; 1952 (estimate), 45,000.

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
Bahrain M22

adequate motor-bus communications with most of the villages.

Manama is the shipping centre of the Gulf pearl industry,[1] and steamers connect regularly with India, Persia, and Iraq. Bahrain harbour is also the centre of a considerable coastal and pearling trade by dhows, as well as the local headquarters of its fishing industry. Other local industries are dhow-building and the manufacture of sailcloth and reed matting. Much of the import and export trade from al-Hasa and its hinterland passes through Bahrain, and this created an important source of revenue during the years in which Aramco was developing its oilfields on the Saudi coast. Lately, however, the Saudis have perceived the advantage of conducting this trade for themselves. By establishing a high-cost re-entry permit, they have discouraged the foreign staff of the oil company from doing its week-end shopping in Bahrain, and their policy is to increase the port and market facilities of the two Saudi coastal towns opposite the island—Damman and Al Khobar. In Bahrain there is a duty of 5 per cent ad valorem on essential imports such as food and clothing; non-essential imports are subject to higher duties, ranging between 15 per cent on tobacco and liquor, and 10 per cent on luxuries.

History and Foreign Relations

The presence in the northern part of Bahrain Island of numerous burial tumuli indicates very early human inhabitants, but their identity, which was at one time thought to be Phoenician, remains unknown. Bahrain's situation and natural harbour facilities suggest that from the earliest days of sea navigation in the Gulf the port was important. Its recorded history, however, dates only from 1507, when the Portuguese occupied the island. They built a fort of which the ruins survive, but were driven out in 1602 by an Arab invasion from Persia. Bahrain was held by Persia intermittently until 1783, when it was conquered by Arabs from the mainland. Since 1816 it has been ruled by the Khalifa family of the Utubi tribe, which in 1820 first entered into treaty relations with the East India Company. But the Persian Government has never ceased to claim sovereignty over the island and at intervals has protested against British treaties with the Shaikh. The Persian claim is based on a British Note of 27 April 1869 in which (the Persians allege)[2] Lord Clarendon recognized their title to sovereignty over the

[1] This has long been important, and in the 1830's the fisheries were estimated to bring in some £300,000 to £400,000 a year.

[2] The Persian claim was disposed of by Sir Austen Chamberlain in a Note of 18 January 1928. See League of Nations, *Official Journal*, May 1928, pp. 606–7.

proximately 26,000 residents, and Hedd, a pearl fishing center, around 10,000. The population exceeded that of the 1941 census by almost 20,000: the increase was confined mainly to the towns of Manama and Muharraq, and was attributed in large part to immigration.

Since the organization of the first government school in 1919, education has made considerable progress, but expansion is handicapped by a shortage of trained teaching personnel. In 1950, the Bahrain government supported 13 primary schools for boys —8 in the towns and 5 in the villages. Educational facilities were made available to girls in 1928, and at present 6 primary schools are in operation. Of the 5,770 pupils registered in government schools in 1950-51, slightly over 1,700 were girls. A few private schools are established in Manama, while Koranic schools are found in most towns and villages. The government also maintains a secondary school, a technical school and a school hostel for boys, and provides scholarships for qualified students for advanced study at the American University of Beirut and in Great Britain. In the recent census, the literacy rate in the indigenous population was estimated at 10 per cent.

Vital Statistics

The registration of births and deaths is not compulsory in Bahrain, and no data for the calculation of vital statistics are obtainable. Local medical authorities agree that the mortality rates in infancy and early childhood are uniformly high. Observations made by the census enumerators in 1950 suggest that the infant mortality is particularly serious in the rural villages, in contrast with the towns, where living conditions have improved within recent years. The maternal mortality rates are correspondingly high.

The size of the population remained practically stationary in the rural districts in the 9-year interval between the first and the second census surveys. The rate of increase in areas outside the towns of Ma-

342 flat roofs, surrounded by parapets. Those with two or more stories sometimes have broad balconies.

342 571 In the towns, the poorer people often occupy multifamily houses in the older, congested districts or live in hut settlements on the outskirts. The huts, known locally as *barastis*, are made of bamboo or date-stick poles interwoven with palm leaves, and roofed with palm-leaf matting. They are frequently grouped within pole and matting stockades, the individual huts being separated by narrow alleys. Of the 5,703 houses 342 counted in the town of Manama at the time 571 of the 1950 census, 2,608 were of palm-leaf 361 construction. Although the standards of living have improved among the laboring classes within recent years, most of the rural inhabitants dwell under primitive conditions, as did their forefathers. Palm-leaf huts predominate in the date garden and the fishing villages. They are admirably adapted to the heat of summer, but afford poor protection against the occasional cold winds.

186 361 653 342 The rural Baharna and Arabs live apart in segregated villages, and even in the towns there is a tendency for the different racial and religious groups to form distinct communities. The Bahrain Petroleum Company has created a self-sufficient modern settlement for its British and American employees at Awali, on the edge of the oil field area. The development of modern housing projects is also being promoted by the government, and plans are under consideration for the demolition of certain slum areas and the erection of low-rental dwellings.

ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION

Water Supplies

312 The fame of the sweet-water springs of Bahrain stems from ancient times, and undoubtedly contributed to the early development of Manama as a trading center. No only do abundant sources of water exist in the oases along the northern end of Bahrain

Island, but fresh-water springs, said to originate in the mountains of Arabia, are found in the shallow waters about a mile from the shore. Up to around 25 years ago, most of the water used in the towns was brought by donkey carts from wells or springs in the oases; sometimes by boats from the offshore springs. Water for domestic and irrigation purposes is now obtained from springs and shallow wells, and to an increasing extent from deep wells: several hundred artesian wells have been sunk within recent years on Bahrain, Muharraq, Sitra and other islands. In 1948, a special Agriculture and Water Committee was created in the government to control the water supply and prevent unnecessary wastage.

Manama has a municipal water supply, the initial stages of which were completed in 1948. Water, derived from artesian wells, is piped to about 70 per cent of the houses and to community fountains in the older, congested districts and *barasti* settlements. In other towns, water from private wells is used, or day-by-day supplies are purchased in 5-gallon cans from commercial peddlers.

Most shallow wells and spring supplies are unprotected and seriously polluted. Since the installation of a piped water system in Manama, many of the shallow wells have been closed, with a resultant decrease in anopheline breeding and in prevalence of intestinal infections. However, numerous opportunities for contamination still occur in the distribution of water from community sources. Distilled sea water is produced by a plant at Manama, but its sale for household purposes has been restricted since the town supply became available.

Waste Disposal

The methods of sewage disposal are generally primitive. Septic tanks are employed in connection with many of the newer houses, and in the oil company installations. Cesspits or simple privies are in use in the bazaar districts and the *barasti* quarters, as well as in the smaller towns and villages.

Pollution of the soil is common, although the practice is discouraged in the towns.

Fauna and Flora

Except for investigations relating to the anopheline vectors of malaria, few entomologic studies have been undertaken in Bahrain. Five species of anopheline mosquitoes have been identified—*Anopheles stephensi, A. culicifacies, A. sergenti, A. fluviatilis* and *A. pulcherrimus*. *A. stephensi* breeds in shallow wells, seepage pools, water storage tanks and irrigation ditches; and is responsible for a large part of the malaria transmission on the islands. While *A. culicifacies* is probably a vector in some localities, it is generally regarded as of minor importance. *A. gambiae* is not indigenous, but it is sometimes found on board dhows upon arrival in port. Species of *Culex* are widespread. However, no vectors of filariasis have been recorded locally. Species of *Aedes* are known to be present.

A campaign for the control of malarial mosquitoes has been carried on by the government since 1939. Supplementary programs are conducted by the Bahrain Petroleum Company in the vicinity of its installations and throughout the southern half of Bahrain Island. The antilarval measures include the treatment of breeding places with oil or DDT preparations and the stocking of wells and drainage ditches with the larvivorous fish, *Gambusia*. The prevalence of anopheline mosquitoes reached minimal proportions in Manama by 1948, but was still extensive in the surrounding suburbs and date garden areas. The following year, the spraying of the marshes, rubbish dumps and gardens around the main towns and the residual spraying of the houses and the bazaars with DDT and Gammexane preparations were introduced for the suppression of both flies and mosquitoes.

Flies are abundant, although their numbers have been markedly reduced in the towns since the inauguration of the residual

P. 259(B)

164 occurred intermittently in the past, chiefly in Manama and Muharraq. The islands are
[744] exposed to the introduction of the disease from neighboring territories, but the enforcement of quarantine regulations has prevented its establishment for several decades.

Other Infections. Although a mild degree of louse infestation occurs among the inhabitants in some congested areas, louse-borne typhus is rarely, if ever, reported. Imported cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis, or Oriental sore, and filariasis are occasionally treated in the local medical institutions, but the insect vectors are not known to be present, and indigenous infections have not been recorded. Guinea worm infection is sometimes seen among persons from Iran, but it is not found in the resident population.

Nutritional Diseases

146 The standards of nutrition have improved
361 materially in the last few years. Under-
511 nutrition is common, but serious defects are seen primarily among the inhabitants of outlying villages and the families of workers from the mainland. Poverty, traditional dietary customs and intestinal parasitism are contributory factors. Subclinical deficiencies in vitamin C are widespread, and scurvy is observed from time to time. Rickets is frequent among the children in the towns. Anemia is prevalent, and hemoglobin levels of 25 to 30 per cent are not unusual among the women.

SUMMARY

619 Bahrain is an independent sheikhdom
131 which consists of an archipelago of 5 main
282 islands situated in the Persian Gulf near the
315 coast of Arabia. It has long been famous as a pearl fishing center, and, since 1932, has enjoyed prosperity as an oil-producing area.
161 It has a heterogeneous population which
162 numbered 109,650 in 1950, including 18,471
795 foreigners. The people are predominantly of
144 mixed Arab and Persian origin, and about 96 per cent are Moslems.

p. 264(B)

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
BAHRAIN MZ2

643 agreement similar to that accepted by the Sultan of Oman. By this
648 treaty he undertakes, in return for a subsidy, to alienate no part of his territory except to the British, to conform to British policy, and to accept no help, pecuniary or other, from any foreign power. A British Political Agent, under the Resident at Bushire, is stationed at Manāmah.

The present ruler, Sheikh 'Īsa ibn 'Ali el-Khalīfah, now an old man, owed his accession in 1867 to our influence, and has been supported by us against other claimants of his family, notably Khalīfah ibn Hamed ibn Mohammed el-Khalīfah, who has intrigued with the Porte. Although Sheikh 'Īsa is not without natural sagacity, he has proved to be lacking in the force of character and practical ability which distinguished his contemporary, Sheikh Mubārak of Koweit. In addition, he has sometimes shown himself sensitive of control, even to the point of obstructing reforms, encouraged in such courses, perhaps, by a certain impatience of foreign influence prevalent in Bahrein; he has thus on at least one occasion incurred the censure of the Indian Government. But in spite of these shortcomings, he has avoided serious complications; in the difficult times which began with the crisis in the pearl industry in 1913, and have been aggravated by the war, he has shown ability and reasonable goodwill. His heir, Sheikh Hāmid, is described as a man holding moderate views.

Islands

1. *Bahrein*

•361 The general nature of Bahrein Island has been described in a
438 previous section (p. 311). In the present place the chief centres of population may be noticed. The island has nearly 100 villages and hamlets, of which the following are the most important:

Hālah Bin Anas, a short distance E. of Manāmah, with 85 huts of Sunnis, who are pearl-divers and fishermen.

'Askar, on the E. coast, 4¼ miles ENE. of Jebel Dukhān. 75 stone houses and reed-huts of Āl Bu 'Ainein, pearl-divers, owning about 20 boats; 1,500 date-palms; a little live stock.

Bilād el-Qadīm, about 1½ mile SW. of Manāmah fort; about 350 mud and reed huts. The inhabitants are *Bahārinah*, who gain a livelihood as pearl-merchants, cultivators, or tailors; many ruined stone houses. It has a suburb to the SW. called *Bilād er-Rāfi'*, and on the NW. side the *Sūq el-Khamīs*, where a large market is held on Thursdays. About ½ mile to the W. are the ruins of the Madrasat Abu Zeidān, the minarets of which, in combination with Jebel

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
BAHRAIN MZ2

361 438

Dukhān, form a landmark for vessels entering Manāmah harbour. In the ruined part of the village is the fine spring of *Abu Zeidān*, over which a modern Shiah mosque has been erected; the water fills a tank much resorted to for bathing in hot weather. There are nearly 12,000 date-trees, with other fruit trees, and a little live stock.

Būri, 7 miles SW. of Manāmah at the SW. extremity of the great date-belt. A few stone houses and 150 huts of *Bahārinah* date-growers. About 10,500 date-palms; a little live stock. *Dirāz*, 1 mile ENE. of Budayya' town (p. 322) and ¾ mile from the sea. Several well-built houses, and 150 huts of *Bahārinah* cultivators, weavers, and pearl-divers; a considerable quantity of cloth for abbas woven; 1,500 date-palms; live stock. *Beni Jamrah*, ¾ mile E. of Budayya'; 50 huts of *Bahārinah* weavers; good well; 1,300 date-palms; live stock. *Jau*, on E. coast, 5 miles ESE. of Jebel Dukhān. A few well-built houses and about 400 huts. The people are Sunni pearl-fishers, owning about 30 boats. *Jidd Hafs*, 1¼ miles SE. of the ruined Portuguese fort, *Qal'at el-'Ajāj*, which is 3¼ miles W. of Manāmah fort. Large village of 300 houses, occupied by *Bahārinah* date-growers, carpenters, lime-burners, and pearl-merchants. Irrigated gardens with lucerne, vegetables, and fruits. 16,000 date-palms; live stock. The smaller village *'Ain ed-Dār* (50 houses) is practically a suburb.

Jufeir, N. of the cape of the same name; 80 reed huts of Bahārinah cultivators and fishermen. Near the point of the cape is a large stone house belonging to the Wāzīr of Bahrein. About 900 date-palms, lucerne fields; live stock; 15 pearl-boats. *Karzakkān*, ¾ mile from the W. coast, 7 miles below Budayya'; 150 huts of *Bahārinah* cultivators and sail-makers; large date-groves; 16,500 trees; donkeys and cattle.

Ma'āmīr, on E. coast, opposite Sitrah Island; 130 houses, including stone buildings; population, *Bahārinah* pearl-fishers, owning more than 20 boats. *Mālikīyah*, near W. coast, 8 miles below Budayya', and close to the landing-place for passengers from *Hasa* called *'Aqārīyah*; 100 huts of *Bahārinah* cultivators; about 6,000 date-palms; some 20 donkeys. Near the village, a stone-built Shiah shrine. *Rifā' esh-Sharqi*, large village with watch-towers on a bare site 7 miles S. of Manāmah, at the NE. corner of the central depression, which it overlooks. There are two large masonry houses, one occupied by Sheikh Khālid ibn 'Ali, brother of the Sheikh of Bahrein, who governs the place, the other by another member of the ruling family. The village itself consists of 300 mud houses occupied by Maliki Sunnis, whose living is made by selling in Manāmah the excellent drinking-water from the wells of *Haneini* in

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
BAHRAIN MZ2

361 438 the depression below (17 fathoms or more); another good well, *'Ain Khālid*, is in the centre of the village. The people own 85 donkeys and 16 horses. This village, like the next following, serves as a sanitorium for the island.

Rifā' el-Gharbi, in a similar position to the above, from which it is distant 1¼ miles WNW. One large masonry house is occupied by a member of the ruling family, though the village is under the jurisdiction of Sheikh Khālid; there are 40 reed huts, the inhabitants of which are Maliki Sunnis, chiefly of the 'Utūb tribe. The people gain a livelihood by selling Manāmah drinking-water from the well *Umm Ghuweifah* on the plateau near the village, carrying it thither on camels. No cultivation; some live stock. The village, like the preceding, is a sanitorium for the island. *Sanābis*, on the N. coast; a long village with a mosque, inhabited by 1,500 *Bahārinah*, engaged in boat-building, fishing, and the pearl trade; 30 pearl boats; 900 date-palms; some live stock. *Zallāq*, on the W. coast, 11 miles below Budayya'; 3 stone and 200 mud houses, inhabited by Dawāsir engaged in the pearl fisheries. There is a ruined fort. The people own 30 boats; live stock includes 30 donkeys and cattle.

The following are the principal towns:—

504 1. **Manāmah,** the commercial capital, is an open town situated on the coast at the NE. corner of the island; the anchorage is good, but steamers of 19 feet draught cannot come nearer than the outer anchorage 4 miles to the NW. of the town; smaller vessels can run up to an inner anchorage 2 miles off shore in the same direction. The bottom shelves so gradually that at low water even boats cannot get within ¼ mile of the beach, but must discharge passengers and cargo by means of donkeys; the harbour has many nets and fish-
361 weirs always set. Manāmah with its suburbs extends 1½ miles along
438 the sea-front, and has a depth inland of about ½ mile. The general appearance of the town is dingy and unprepossessing; the beach quarter is occupied by fishermen's huts, and the shore is formed of a dirty shingle. The larger buildings are of small stones cemented by mud or inferior mortar, which is apt to fall out, suggesting neglect and decay; while the ground floors are used as go-downs and business offices. The bazaar (450 shops), in the centre of which is the market-place, has been described as 'a filthy labyrinth of narrow lanes lined by shops and generally covered over with mats to keep out the sun'. In the outskirts dwellings are usually matting huts standing in courtyards enclosed by hurdles of upright date-fronds. The best buildings are the British Political Agency towards the NE. end; the American Mission and Hospital; Qal'at ed-Dīwān

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
BAHRAIN MZ2

361 • 438

or Manāmah fort, the Sheikh's summer residence, a large bastioned structure, standing in the open plain between the town and the date gardens behind it; a well-built house rather farther inland, belonging to Sheikh Hāmid, the heir apparent, and a further large house, near the SW. end, formerly occupied by another member of the ruling family. With the exception of the new Jāmi' mosque, places of worship are mostly unpretentious. The former villages of *Ras Rummān* (or *Farīq Hamidah*) and *Na'īm Kebīrah* now form suburbs; the first covers a point of the same name beyond the British Agency, and is inhabited by pearl-divers, fishermen, and ferrymen serving the strait to Muharraq; the second, at the west end, is inhabited by poor *Bahārinah* occupied in boat-building and pearl-fishing.

The population of Manāmah and its suburbs is about 25,000, of whom three-fifths are Sunnis and the remainder Shiahs; the former, who show a noticeable infusion of negro blood, include 5,000 *Hūwalah*, about 400 Arabs from Koweit, Hasa, and Nejd, 1,000 Arabs of uncertain origin, 500 'Utūb, and more than 2,000 negroes, enslaved and free; the Shiahs are composed of 12,000 *Baḥārinah* of Bahrein, 1,250 *Bahārinah* from Hasa and Qatīf, 1,500 Persians, and a few Arabs from Basra. The Arabs from Nejd are mostly Wahabite. The small non-Mohammedan residue of a few hundred souls consists of Hindus, Jews, and Oriental Christians.

Drinking-water is obtained from a well called *'Ain Muqbil*, sunk in the coral rock between the British Agency and the American Mission, and from a cistern called *Qufūl*, about a mile W. of the fort, filled by the surplus water of several springs. These are used by the poorer inhabitants; the first is brackish, the second contaminated by ablution of men and animals. Other inhabitants buy their drinking-water from camel-men of Rifā' esh-Sharqi and Rifā' el-Gharbi, who bring it for sale from the wells in their villages (see above). For washing purposes water can be reached anywhere at about 6 feet, and almost every house has its well. For the trade of the port see p. 314 f. The town and suburbs possess about 150 pearling and other boats. The date-groves beyond the fort begin the large belt already mentioned. The number of trees belonging to the town proper is limited to about 500; a rather larger number belong to the suburb of Na'īm el-Kebīrah. There is a British Indian post office.

Should Manāmah be used as a temporary base for troops, the best site for a camp would be on the east side of the plain behind the town, where perhaps a division could be accommodated. Disembarkation can be carried out in three places, at the beach of

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
BAHRAIN MZ2

361 Qasabīyah clear of the town, at the customs pier, and at the jetty
438 of the British Agency.

2. **Budeyya'**, near the NW. corner of Bahrein Island, stretches for about a mile along the sea with a depth of about 300 yards. It has three quarters with about 8,000 inhabitants, *Farīq el-'Amāmarah*, *Farīq ed-Dām*, and *Farīq el-Budayya'*, containing a considerable number of stone houses, five or six buildings of solid masonry with upper storeys, and a tower. The people are all Sunnis, the most numerous Arab communities belonging to the Dawāsir (800 houses) and 'Amāmarah (100 houses). There are a large number of negro slaves (450 houses) and free negroes (200 houses), with about 50 households of *Hūwalah*. Most of the people are engaged in the pearl-fisheries, and more than 100 boats are owned. The Dawāsir, whose Sheikh administers the town without interference from the Sheikh of Bahrein, chiefly occupy the Budayya' and Dām quarters, obtaining their water-supply from wells in the date-plantations of *Dirāz* and *Beni Jamrah* villages; the well of the 'Amāmarah quarter is a little to the E. of the houses.

2. *Muharraq*

101 This island lies immediately NE. of Bahrein, from which it is
131 separated by a narrow strait a mile and a half broad; it is of horse-shoe shape, with the open side to the S.; the maximum diameter is about 4 miles. The island is really a low sandbank surrounded by flat coral reefs which almost triple its surface at low tide; from this projects on the NW. a rocky spit called *Ras el-Khaseifah*, extending seaward for nearly 4 miles and constituting the chief danger to ships entering Manāmah harbour. Several marine
361 springs rise near the coasts of the island. There are some 15
438 villages or hamlets in addition to Muharraq town, the more important of which are: *'Arād*, on a promontory on the S. coast; 100 huts of *Bahārinah* date-growers, fishermen, and pearl-divers. There is a rectangular ruined fort, with sides about 90 ft. long, at the E. point of 'Arād Bay. Plantations with about 12,000 date-palms. *Buseitīn*, on the W. coast, 1 mile N. of Muharraq town; 400 houses, some of stone, but most of date-mats. The people are Sunnis, chiefly of the Madhāhakah tribe, owning about 50 boats, mostly used for pearl-fishing. Date-palms number about 1,000; carrots and lucerne are cultivated beneath the trees. Two wells in the date-grove, with brackish water. *Deir*, on NW. coast, 2 miles N. by E. of Muharraq town; 300 houses of mud or date-mats; 3 mosques. Inhabitants are *Bahārinah* engaged in the

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
BAHRAIN MZ2

361 • 438

pearl-fisheries, and owning more than 20 boats. Date-groves with about 1,700 trees, among which are several large wells (water at 15 ft.) serving to irrigate the groves, and fields of lucerne. *Hālat Abu Māhur*, on a small island some hundred yards S. of Muharraq town; and connected with the larger island at low tide; 500 houses and huts inhabited by Sunnis, chiefly Āl Bin Maqla, with a number of negroes, enslaved and free. A number of boats are constantly engaged in taking to Muharraq water from the submarine well 600 yards E. of the fort of Abu Māhur at the S. end of the island, now used by the Sheikh as a stable. *Qalāli*, on the NE. coast: 150 mud and reed huts with two good masonry houses. The inhabitants are Sunnis, chiefly of the Manāna'ah tribe, engaged in pearl-dealing or diving and sea-fishing. About 60 boats; no cultivation.

The principal towns are the following:—

1. **Muharraq,** the residence of the Sheikh for eight months in the year, lies on the W. side of Muharraq Island, on the strait dividing it from Bahrein, and about 2 miles from Manāmah. The fort of *Abu Māhur*, which has now no military value, stands on a small island 800 yards S. of the town, near the celebrated submarine spring of the same name which supplies the town with most of its drinking-water. At high water Muharraq is surrounded by the sea on the E., S., and W. sides, a great sanitary advantage, as the sea daily removes the rubbish shot within its reach. The population is estimated at about 20,000, half of whom are *Hūwalah*. There are about 3,000 'Utūb, 2,000 Āl Bin 'Ali Arabs, nearly 1,000 Ziyā'inah, 1,000 *Bahārinah*, and 2,500 negroes, free or slaves, with smaller numbers of other tribes and aggregations. Of this population all but the *Bahārinah* and a few Persians are Sunnis. The people are general merchants, shopkeepers, pearl-merchants, pearl-divers, sailors, boatmen, fishermen, small traders and craftsmen, the pearl-divers forming a much larger proportion of the community than at Manāmah. The place possesses about 700 vessels, nearly one-half of which are used as pearl-boats. More than 200 donkeys, 150 head of cattle, and 80 horses are owned in the town.

Muharraq has fifteen quarters, mostly named after the tribes inhabiting them; there is a bazaar of 300 shops, but the town has no date-palms. During the hot weather the greater part of the population migrates across the strait and encamps in the NE. part of Bahrein Island. As the principal residence of the Sheikh, Muharraq is the political, as Manāmah is the commercial, capital of the principality. It is drier and brighter of aspect than the latter city, and architecturally more impressive when viewed from the sea.

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
BAHRAIN MZ2

•361
438

2. **Hadd,** on the SE. promontory. The town contains perhaps 200 well-built stone houses, and possibly as many as 1,500 mud-and-stone or mat dwellings. The population, estimated at about 8,000, consists of Sunnis, chiefly of the Sādah and Beni Yās tribes. Hadd is the greatest pearl-diving centre in the principality, owning about 170 pearl-boats. There is no cultivation. Water is obtained from wells in a date-grove called *Zimmah*, half a mile to the N. Live-stock consists chiefly of more than 100 donkeys.

3. *Sitrah*

This island lies off the E. coast of Bahrein, from which it is separated by a narrow channel. It measures 4½ miles from N. to S., with a maximum breadth of 1½ miles at the N. end, where there are date-groves of exceptional growth, watered from springs and wells; the narrower S. end is a low expanse of sand. Sitrah is a part of the fief held by Khālid ibn 'Ali, brother of the Sheikh, who in summer resides in a bastioned house at *Khārijīyah*. The inhabitants of the N. part are *Bahārinah*, occupying seven villages or hamlets, of which the more important are: *Hālah* or *Hālāt* on the N. coast, a hamlet where passengers land from Manāmah or Muharraq. *Khārijīyah*, near the W. coast, 1 mile from the most northerly point; fort forming the summer residence of Sheikh Khālid; 50 reed huts of pearl-divers, fishermen, and mat-makers; 1,500 date-palms. *Marqūbān*, near the centre; 30 huts of pearl-divers and cultivators; about 5,000 date-palms. *Muhazzaz*, on E. coast, near the N. end; 60 reed huts, about 30 boats, over 4,000 date-palms; a good spring feeding a tank. *Quryah*, near the NW. corner; 40 reed huts; gardens belonging to Sheikh Khālid; 7,000 date-palms; about 20 boats. Between Quryah and Hālāt is the fine spring of *'Ain er-Raha*, the water of which is collected in a tank for irrigation. *Sufālah*, on the E. coast, 1½ mile from the N. end; 50 mat huts; date-groves on N. side, with 4,000 trees; about 20 boats. Good water-supply from the spring at *Muhazzah*. *Wādiyān*, ¼ mile ESE. of Khārijīyah; 60 reed huts; 4,000 date-palms; a fine spring used for irrigation.

The only village in the S. part is *Hālat Umm el-Beidh*, inhabited by Sunnis.

There are three rocky islets off Sitrah; two, called *Qassārein*, are 500 yards from the N. side; the third, *Qassār Bin Ṭarīf*, is 250 yards from the NW. corner. On all three Na'īm Bedouins encamp during the hot weather.

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
BAHRAIN MZ2
QATAR MK3

B
361
438

4. *Nebi Sālih, or Jezīrah*

This island lies in the inlet of Kabb on the E. side of Bahrein Island; it measures only ½ mile in each direction, and is practically one large date-grove, said to contain 16,000 trees. There are two villages inhabited by *Bahārinah* cultivators, pearl-divers, and fishermen; one, *Kāflān*, with 40 houses, the other, *Quryah*, with 35, owning about 10 boats. Two copious springs, *'Ain es-Safāhīyah* and *'Ain el-Khadhra*, supply abundant fresh water. The island is under the jurisdiction of Sheikh Khālid, brother of the Sheikh of Bahrein.

About 200 yards to the N. is a still smaller island, *Jezeyyirah*, covered with date-palms, now belonging to Sheikh Khālid, but formerly to a Shiah mosque of which only the ruins remain.

5. *Umm Na'asān*

This island lies about 2 miles off the W. coast of Bahrein Island, and measures less than 4 miles in length from N. to S. by about 2½ miles in breadth; it is uninhabited. Though low, it contains two peaks of inconsiderable height, and furnishes the best building-cement in Bahrein. There is a freshwater spring near the W. coast. The Dawāsir of Budayya' and Zallāq villages on Bahrein Island send their cattle to Umm Na'asān in the hot weather for grazing.

D. EL-QATAR

Area

Q
101
131

El-Qatar is a peninsula running N. and S. with a maximum length of 80 miles and a breadth, at the base, of 40 miles; it projects from the Arabian coast about midway up the Persian Gulf, and forms the eastern side of the Gulf of Bahrein. Its S., or land boundary, is not clearly defined. Beginning at the foot of the bay called Dōhat es-Salwa on the SW., it runs SE. to the wells of Sakak, continuing thence to the E. coast, either ENE., to the N. end of the Naqiyān sand-hills, which run parallel with the sea for 30 miles from a point 10 miles S. of Wakrah, or E. by S., to the S. end of the same hills, and the shore at the N. end of the Khōr el-'Odeid. The Sheikhs of El-Qatar claim territory even to the S. of this; but the British Government has recognized Khōr el-'Odeid as belonging to the Trucial Sheikh of Abu Dhabi (see p. 337).

Q
631